



THE TIMES

No. 66,494 THURSDAY APRIL 22 1999 <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

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Hitler's birthday gift: a high school massacre



MOMENTS before mayhem descended on Columbine High School, Brooks Brown bumped into a friend on a suicide mission. "I said, 'Hey, man,'" Mr Brown remembered, "and he said, 'Brooks, I like you. Get out of here. Go home.'"

Mr Brown was one of the lucky ones. Eric Harris, the 18-year-old he knew as "just an odd, nice guy", had announced his own death on the Internet and transformed himself into a walking arsenal.

He was about to unleash four hours of terror on a proud and flourishing school, the latest victim of an epidemic of teenage gun violence that has left America in shock.

It was soon after 11am on Tuesday. Bristling with guns and with explosives strapped to their bodies, Harris and his accomplice, Dylan Klebold, also 18, launched their attack on the school that called them "outcasts", with a bomb.

It detonated on a broad boulevard that forms the west side of Columbine's large, landscaped grounds. From there the two teenagers in their trademark black trenchcoats strode across a car park used by senior pupils, and started shooting.

Frank Wade, 18, saw one of their early victims - a girl shot in the leg near the top of a short flight of steps. As she lay wounded, a young man came to her rescue and paid dearly for it. "The trench coat



An anguished America grappled yesterday with the worst schoolyard massacre in its history, which left 15 dead and 16 injured. Two high school outcasts, members of the Trenchcoat Mafia gang, obsessed with

Shock Rock and Nazi paraphernalia, chose the 110th anniversary of Hitler's birth to slaughter their most popular classmates with bullets and bombs. Giles Whittell (left) reports from Littleton, Colorado.

locked door said: "We heard someone scream. 'Please don't kill me, please don't kill me.' Then we heard a voice say 'That's too bad,' and then we heard a shot."

After hours of confusion, Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone said 12 bodies had been counted in the library, one immediately outside it and two elsewhere on the school grounds.

At least 19 pupils were taken to area hospitals by ambulance or helicopter. Several remained in critical condition yesterday, including an unnamed 17-year-old boy with five gunshot wounds to the chest. A girl with nine shrapnel wounds from a bomb was said to be improving.

Police were at the school within five minutes of the first shots, but were hampered from the start by fear of bombs and booby traps; up to 15 explosions were reported during the afternoon and 30 more devices had been found by bomb squads by yesterday morning, three of them planted in nearby cars and one at Mr Harris's home.

SWAT teams arriving two hours into the ordeal

Continued on page 2, column 5

West shifts towards Kosovo land force

By MICHAEL EVANS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

INCREASING expectations that Nato ground troops could be sent into Kosovo before President Milosevic signs a peace deal were heightened by Tony Blair and the US Government last night.

The Prime Minister flew into Washington for talks with President Clinton, having indicated to the Commons before he left that a land force may be used against a "degraded" Serbian war machine.

The United States said last night that it would back any decision by Nato to revise the existing feasibility study for deploying ground troops in Kosovo if top alliance officials called for such a reassessment. "If the military command and the Nato Secretary-General be-



The Queen puts her best (bare) foot forward

EVEN a monarch is expected to respect local customs. The Queen, celebrating her 73rd birthday yesterday at a rural village in Korea, had to remove her white court shoes before entering a traditional house in her socked feet (Alan Hamilton writes).

She had been watching the preparation of pickled cabbage outside a home in the preserved heritage village of Hayhoe, 150 miles south of Seoul, when she was invited to inspect the women's quarters of the suit-inhabited 18th century dwelling. In a brief moment of confusion, she had to be reminded that shoes are not worn indoors. Casually, without even bending down, she kicked off her shoes, and her mainly female entourage immediately followed suit. After a brief encounter with the interior of the wooden house, she re-emerged to wriggle her feet back into her shoes and continue her birthday programme.

The Queen's momentary scowl at being wrong-footed was an uncharacteristic moment during a birthday that she appeared to be thoroughly enjoying. The day was crowned with a standing ovation at a concert in Seoul that brought a tear to her eye and warm smile of gratitude.



lieve that it's prudent to update the assessment based on the changing circumstances on the ground, we would support that," Joe Lockhart, White House spokesman, said.

Although Mr Blair said that the most effective way of halting "ethnic cleansing" was to press on with airstrikes, the Prime Minister left open the option for ground forces to go in at some stage when he repeated that Mr Milosevic did not have a veto on Nato action. However, Mr Blair said that any invasion against "undegraded" Serb forces posed formidable difficulties.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, also appeared to signal that preparations were being made for an invasion which Nato hoped would be only lightly opposed. "The position on a forced invasion,

The Queen kicking off her shoes before entering the women's quarters of a house in Korea

INSIDE Thatcherite protest

Tory Shadow Cabinet members balked at their leadership's orders to abandon a central tenet of Thatcherism - the search for private sector solutions to the health and education systems. Politics, pages 14, 15

Hospital fight over boy's life

Relatives of a disabled boy and doctors were involved in a violent hospital fracas as the family tried to revive him against medical advice, a court was told. Page 11

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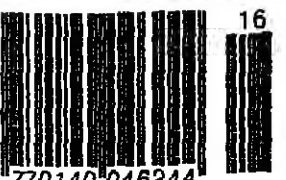
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A Swat prepares for a final search. The risk of booby traps had forced them to leave the dead where they fell

Smart mavericks capable of a terrible violence

Schoolmates tell Giles Whittell of trenchcoated youth's rage against life

LIKE the dead and injured, they came from middle-class families. They were not victims of broken homes. They were both "smart" and "gifted", and they enjoyed tenpin bowling. Yet something about life had soured them in the most brutal way.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went to war on Tuesday having given plenty of warning. They and their friends wore armbands saying "I hate people" and scrawled messages like "Kill all athletes" in their school lavatories — but to prosperous Littleton, nothing about them seemed worth taking seriously.

The first two martyrs of the Trenchcoat Mafia turned up for a pre-school bowling class

before their massacre seeming calm, others were there recalled. Three days earlier they had gone to a New York-themed party after the school prom "in pretty good spirits", according to a friend.

Most fellow pupils at Columbine High School knew of the Trenchcoat Mafia's sinister garb. Some knew they wrote dark poetry, immersed themselves in World War Two history and the heavy metal of Marilyn Manson, and were liable to offer "Hell Hitler" as a greeting. The idea that they would carry out their threats was, however, unthinkable.

"I knew they were capable of violence. I just didn't know they would actually do it," said Pauline Colby, a former mem-

ber of the teenage gang. "They were very angry, but they didn't know how to release their anger. They were angry about people not accepting them and no one knowing how smart they were."

They were "jerks", "outcasts" or "satanists", depending on who you talked to at their school. But some actually liked them, and their insights only deepen the mystery of why the two boiled over.

"He was into guns and stuff like that, but he was pretty nice to me," said Mike Vandegria, a fellow pupil who played fantasy baseball with Klebold. Joe Mallon agreed. "He never really got angry at anyone." The same was not true of Har-

ris, whose sworn enemies were the school's sports stars: its "jocks".

"He was going after jocks," Harris's friend, Brooks Brown, said emphatically after the shooting. "He hated them with a passion because they always made fun of him and threatened him. They did it especially in his sophomore [second] year."

The pair may have used guns belonging to Harris's father, a retired military officer, sources told yesterday's *Denver Post*.

They were also often heard at school discussing how to obtain assault weapons and Uzi-style machine pistols. Besides building websites for a hobby, they built bombs.

"We found pipe bombs, incendiary bombs and propane bombs with nails and timing devices," Sheriff John Stone said yesterday, when the risk of more explosions forced police to leave the dead where they had fallen.

Neighbours reported hearing sawing and grinding noises from the closed garage at the Harris home in a Littleton cul-de-sac last week — noises that could have been from a makeshift bomb factory.

By Tuesday evening Brooks Brown, for one, was seeing things clearly with the benefit of hindsight.

Harris "did it because he hated people", he said. "He loved the idea of killing people. That's how I knew it would end the way that this did."



Pupils help a distraught friend after being evacuated. The killers talked about guns and bombs at school

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Trenchcoat Mafia

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Recipe for pipe bombs on Net

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

HOME-MADE "pipe bombs" like those left scattered around the Colorado school can be built at minimal cost using a recipe available on the Internet, according to US police who describe bomb-making as a growing craze among American teenagers.

The 30 or more bombs found by police searching Columbine High School were made from such easily obtainable household items as propane, petrol and soap.

Hundreds of books and manuals, as well as many Internet sites, provide instructions on how to combine the ingredients to make bombs that are easy to conceal and devastatingly powerful. A metal pipe bomb less than a foot long can contain enough explosive to kill at a range of 400ft.

More than a third of bomb-related incidents in the US involve juveniles with home-made devices. Attempts to re-

strict the flow of bomb-making information have run foul of the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech.

Internet discussion groups routinely exchange tips on bomb-making, and one site offers instructions on "bleach bombs", "jug bombs" and letter bombs.

"There's a lot of information on the Internet, home recipes and such, and there's nothing much we can do about it," Dan Boek, of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said recently after a pipe bomb had been placed by two teenagers outside a state police barracks in Indiana.

Last year local authorities in Washington DC issued a pamphlet offering tips on how to spot if a child is a secret bomb-maker. "Generally these teenagers excel at academic activities," the pamphlet said.

FBI alerted to bomb website

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA Online contacted the FBI yesterday about the content posted on its service by one of the gunmen in the Colorado school massacre.

A search had shown that Eric Harris maintained a website through AOL, an Internet service provider, that included two pages about making pipe bombs and other explosives.

But Kim McCreery, an AOL spokeswoman, said that there was no immediate evidence that anyone had posted warnings on the Internet before the shootings.

She was responding to what had been considered a warning on another member's profile that said: "Preparin' for the big April 20. You'll all be sorry that day." She pointed out that after big news events members' profiles often flooded with hoaxes.

At the scene of the shootings, a Sheriff's spokesman, Steve Davis, said that police had been unable to find a

motive for the shooting, but they had heard speculation that it was connected to the anniversary of the birth of Adolf Hitler.

Other pupils told investigators that the Trenchcoat Mafia, a group of a dozen pupils linked to the two suspects, wore swastikas on their clothes and liked to discuss Hitler.

"They took real pride in him. It was creepy," one girl told reporters.

Within hours of the shootings, messages from people purporting to be the Trenchcoat Mafia surfaced on the Internet. Early on Tuesday evening a search turned up 22 hits. Two hours later there were 29.

In his AOL member profile, Harris, who killed himself after the shootings, described his hobbies as: "Professional doom and doom, creator, meeting beautiful females, being cool."

DENVER SHOOTING: THE GUN DEBATE

Clinton avoids weapons issue

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN WASHINGTON

In an emotional speech evoking the "horror and agony" of the Colorado massacre yesterday, Bill Clinton pointedly avoided any reference to gun-control, knowing only too well the bitter passions aroused by attempts to restrain America's enduring love affair with guns.

The Clinton presidency has scored some notable successes in its efforts to control guns, but it has also been exposed to the full rage of the pro-gun lobby and the strength of the nation's ingrained attachment to firearms.

Administration officials concede that any programme for the radical overhaul of US gun laws, such as Britain's clampdown on weapons following the Dunblane massacre, is doomed to failure. Recent efforts to introduce legislation, such as a Bill to close the loophole that allows private individuals to sell weapons at gun shows without carrying out background checks, have been rebuffed by the Republican-dominated congress.

Rather than raise the incen-

diary issue of restricting gun ownership or sales, Mr Clinton has instead blamed the Denver massacre on "violent images and experiences that warp young perspectives and obscure the consequences of violence".

"In the days ahead we will do all we can to see what else we can do," he said, with a studied vagueness borne of repeated and painful clashes over gun-control.

Although a native of Arkansas, where gun-ownership is close to a religion and children

of any age can own rifles or shotguns, Mr Clinton has earned the undying enmity of the gun lobby with his efforts to bring in weapons legislation.

Last year, after the playground killings in Jonesboro, Arkansas, he banned the import of 58 types of assault weapons in a major blow to the National Rifle Association (NRA), which accused the president of "bending the law".

"There are still too many children in harm's way. You don't need an Uzi to go deer

hunting and you don't need an AK-47 to go skeet shooting. These are weapons of war, they are not needed for a day in the country," Mr Clinton said.

The order, which immediately prevented 1.5 million high-powered guns from coming onto the US market, followed two earlier efforts to outlaw the guns. A 1989 ban by president George Bush and another by Mr Clinton in 1994 foundered when manufacturers made minute modifications to the weapons, allowing them to

be classified as sporting rifles.

Mr Clinton was also responsible for pushing through the highly controversial Brady Bill in 1993, the first successful effort to regulate guns for 25 years, which required a five-day waiting period following the purchase of a handgun to allow police checks.

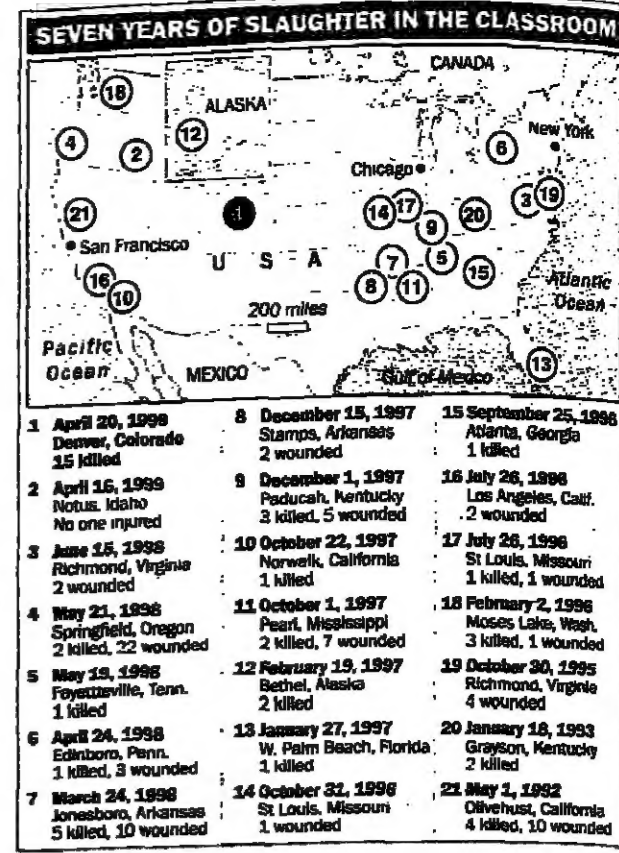
The bill was named after former White House press secretary James Brady, the living symbol of the campaign for greater gun control, who was permanently disabled in the attempted assassination of Ron-

ald Reagan in 1981. The White House says the measure has prevented at least 250,000 "unsuitable" Americans with criminal, mental or drug records from obtaining guns — although part of the bill was later struck down by the Supreme Court.

The NRA and other pro-gun lobbying groups insist such efforts represent a direct infringement of the constitutional "right to keep and bear arms". But Mr Clinton has also come under fire from groups demanding tougher restrictions, who claim that a general ban on specific classes of weapons would have far more effect than a "piecemeal" approach.

US Attorney General Janet Reno yesterday argued that stricter gun control laws were not a complete solution to youth violence. "We've got to make sure young people have the counseling, the support to help them come to grips with the anger of their life," she said.

Meanwhile, announcing his candidacy for President yesterday, conservative Gary Bauer, a fierce opponent of gun control, ascribed the Colorado killings to moral degeneration



Bloody start to 'era of peace'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

The bloodshed in Colorado comes just weeks after Richard Riley, US Education Secretary, hailed a new era of peace in the country's schools, citing measures to combat youth violence and bring greater community involvement by parents and teachers.

A 1997 survey found that one in five high school students had recently carried a gun, but the Littleton killings were the first at school since last July. Then a Florida man shot his wife, a teacher, before shooting himself.

Last October, after six school killings in a year left 14 dead, President Clinton convened a conference on youth violence. In April a plan was unveiled to award more than \$300 million (£186 million) to communities to prevent such violence by stopping truancy, courses on resolving conflicts, new security

equipment and promoting after-school activities.

The programme also included \$80 million for hiring community police officers and \$40 million for counselling youths deemed most at risk. Some Republicans claimed that the steps were merely a sign of the President "battering" for votes before congressional elections.

Three weeks ago the Government began accepting applications for the funds. Janet Reno, US Attorney-General, said: "When law enforcement works in partnership with our schools and our health professionals and with parents and the whole community, we can prevent violence."

Carolyn McCarthy, a Democratic Congress member, has been pushing for a Bill to require child-locks on handguns and the revoking of the licences of dealers selling weapons to minors.

England's saint a cover for fascists

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CELEBRATING Hitler's birthday has become a low-key affair for Britain's neo-Nazis. According to Gerry Gable, publisher of *Searchlight*, which monitors the extreme Right, there are probably no more than 500 members of the British National Party who mark the occasion in the back bar of a friendly pub or the function room of a small hotel. *Searchlight* estimates that

the day might also be marked by about 50 members of Combat 18, which claimed to have planted the Brighton nail bomb last weekend.

Some groups use St George's Day, this Friday, as a cover to celebrate the Führer's birthday. At least two private meetings and socials are being planned this weekend at hotels in Lancashire and the Midlands. Mr Gable said one businessman who lives in Suffolk was well-known for his annual parties.

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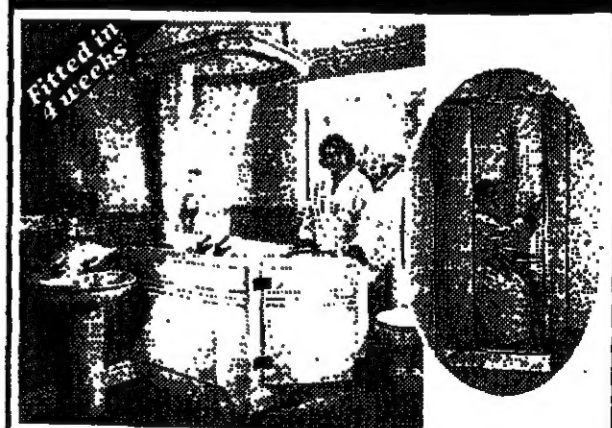
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حکومت العراق

DENVER SHOOTING: CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

Gloomy tribal craze that was born in Britain

THE goth sub-culture from which Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris emerged began in Britain among the followers of doom-laden, post-punk rock bands.

It has grown to embrace a plethora of diverse youth tribes including devil worshippers and followers of vampirism. When adolescents started dyeing their hair black and painting their faces white at the beginning of the 1980s they were just deemed a little odd, but threat to no one.

They were particularly prevalent in Leeds for some reason, and then began to colonise the pokier corners of London. They enjoyed being gloomy, moping around in darkened rooms by day listening to dreary songs swamped by heavy guitars and drums.

They then emerged at night, clad in black, to attend the bands' concerts. They were more likely to be university students who had overdone on Shelley or Edgar Allan Poe than seriously antisocial crazies.

As the movement spread to America more and more fringe groups emerged. There are dozens of goth websites combining long, rambling explanations of goth culture. "Generally the personality of a goth is kind of dark," says one typical site. "There is some focus on death, but once again we are not trying to be evil. We

Damian Whitworth on the origins of a sub-culture exported to America

live in a society that shuns the thought of death. Goths are not obsessed with death. They just don't fear it."

There have been persistent claims that many American teenagers have developed a fascination with bloody medieval behaviour after becoming obsessed with fantasy role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons. Sessions can last for days as the wildest and goriest dreams are fulfilled by the roll of a dice.

The gothic lifestyle and role-playing games became the subject of sometimes hysterical national debate after the "vampire murders" of 1996 in which a suburban Florida couple were killed by teenage members of a vampire cult.

The gang had become involved in vampirism after steeping themselves in a role-playing game called Vampire: the Masquerade. Andy Grieser, the author of a book on blood drinkers, said that thou-

sands were involved in vampirism. There has been huge controversy too about Marilyn Manson, the androgynous male singer and high priest of goth, who professes Satanic sympathies and is reported to have been a favourite of Klebold and Harris.

The black trenchcoats that the two killers apparently wore all the time, rain or shine, may also be significant and indicate that the boys had strayed to the outer reaches of society. Trenchcoats are used as a symbol of Nazism on a number of websites and fellow students have attested that the boys expressed white supremacist views.

One said: "They always have the neo-Nazi look, so we were talking about them and Hitler's birthday even before the shooting started. Everybody knew it was Hitler's birthday."

On one website a skeleton can be seen dancing above a fire and the words "The Trenchcoat". A poem includes the lines: "There will be no performance today/There will be no curtain call/He can no longer perform for you/So witness the grandest spectacle of all/It's a one-night engagement/So make your way to the front/It's the death of a jester/It's one dead man's show/There are no mourners today/Only spectators at the scene/Relishing in this bizarre event..."



Heavy metal star Marilyn Manson, who named himself after Charles Manson

DiCaprio role as killer in trenchcoat

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

IN the film the carnage was all a dream. But the grim reality of the Colorado shootings has focused fresh attention on the controversial movie *The Basketball Diaries*.

The film includes a dream sequence in which a former high-school basketball player, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, opens fire on children and teachers. DiCaprio is seen wearing a black trenchcoat similar to those that were worn by the suspects at Columbine High School.

The movie is already the subject of a \$130 million (£80 million) suit brought by families who claim that it inspired the shooting at a Kentucky high school in 1997 in which a 14-year-old boy killed three pupils. Michael Carneal has said that he was partly inspired by the film to attack a prayer group.

Seagram and Sony, makers of violent video games that Carneal enjoyed playing, have also been named in the suit, which is seeking \$30 million in compensation and \$100 million in punitive damages.



Poster for film linked to youth violence

In a separate case, the family of a woman who claims she was the victim of a copycat shooting inspired by Oliver Stone's film *Natural Born Killers* were given permission to sue the director. The Supreme Court rejected Mr Stone's claim that the film was protected by constitutional free-speech rights.



DiCaprio as he appears in *Basketball Diaries*

Cult following of rock star who apes serial killer

BY ELIZABETH JUDGE

MARILYN MANSON is a heavy metal star and self-styled "anti-Christ" with a cult following in America and Britain.

His band's official website includes a "Stirpe to Marilyn Manson" page and a "Marilyn Manson Alt". Visitors to the site can join the "I hate God" web-ring. Yesterday messages left by people who

had logged on included "Manson is God and I am sick of people judging him," and "I would do anything for Manson".

Manson, 31, was born in Ohio as Brian Warner but renamed himself after the murderer Charles Manson. Other members of the four-strong band, which is based in Florida, are named after a child-killer, a murderer and a stalker. Their last British concert, at the Bridon Acad-

emy in December, was a sell-out. The group are appearing at Glastonbury this year and will perform alongside the rock group Metallica at a one-day event at Milton Keynes in July.

On their first tour to Britain in 1996, they were not made to feel so welcome. Their reputation had preceded them, with rumours of animal sacrifices and lurid sex acts being part of their show. Westminster

Council would not let them use a venue in the borough.

The last of the three albums Manson has released, *Mechanical Animals*, has sold more than two million copies in America. One of the songs includes the line: "And I was a hand grenade that never stopped exploding. You were automatic and as hollow as the 'o' in God."

Last year, Manson, who is engaged to the actress Rose McGow-

an, published his autobiography, *The Long Hard Road out of Hell*, an account of a dysfunctional American outsider who becomes a superstar.

John Harris, Editor of *Select* music magazine, said it would be wrong to ban Manson's music. "It would be totally wrong to link the music with the killings in Denver. I am sure those children eat burgers as well but we would not ban them."

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Widow's record £7m goes to the dogs

BY CHRISTINE MIDDAP

A CHELSEA widow has left £7 million to the Canine Defence League. It is the biggest single legacy left to an animal charity.

Her executor, Neil Eastwood, said that Nora Fielden Hecksher, 80, who had no children, was "a very charming lady who loved dogs. Despite her wealth she lived frugally and was more interested in the comfort of dogs than herself."

National Canine Defence League director Siobhan Lavelle said the charity was "absolutely stunned and moved" by the generous bequest.

She said the charity would use the money to help to achieve its aim of ensuring that no healthy dog in Britain was destroyed. The league received £13 million from donations last year, and its largest bequest had previously been nearly £500,000.

Mrs Hecksher's personal wealth grew from a trust fund established by her Liverpool-based family, who were in the animal feed industry. She had always loved dogs and had adopted many from the Battersea Dogs' Home.

Charity begins with the rich in hard times

Alexander Frean reports on the agencies that seek out philanthropic millionaires

CHARITIES are spending thousands of pounds buying access to confidential lists of millionaires in an attempt to reverse the decline in individual giving.

Firms that specialise in tracking down people capable of making donations of up to £500,000 report a growing interest in their services from voluntary organisations of all sizes. They can provide details of people's wealth, interests and family circumstances, enabling charities to target those most likely to be sympathetic to their causes.

Since the advent of the National Lottery five years ago, there has been a 31 per cent drop in personal donations to charity. Average monthly gifts have fallen from £10.08 in 1993 to £8.51.

Andrew Thomas, chief executive of Charity Consultants, which has a database of around 40,000 potential donors, said there was an art to extracting money from the rich. "The first thing to remember is, don't ask for too little. In the ten years I have been in this business I have only twice had someone give more than was asked for."

He said that charities often had no idea how many very

rich donors they already had on their mailing lists. One major charity had been surprised recently to receive a cheque for £500,000 from an individual supporter after it had made an emergency relief appeal through a routine mail shot.

On another occasion, when asked to analyse a charity's mailing list of 80,000 names, Mr Thomas discovered, much to the charity's surprise, that it contained at least 700 individuals capable of making gifts of up to £500,000.

Mr Thomas, who addressed the annual Charityfair conference in London yesterday, advises charities not to write begging letters but to engineer meetings with potential donors, either by approaching them through a well-placed contact or inviting them to a

champagne reception at a gallery or museum, or an open day at the charity's head office.

The best potential donors are those brought up in the 1960s and 1970s. They have a strong desire to "help the world", Mr Thomas says and include self-made millionaires and those at a crossroads in their lives.

Robin Jones from The Factory, the Bristol-based fundraising consultants, said it was important for charities to approach only individuals known to have an interest in their cause.

His company compiles profiles of likely donors by monitoring the press, the Internet and company reports, and scouring *Debrett's Peerage* and *Who's Who*.

Caroline Abrahams of the National Children's Bureau, which is hiring a donor fundraiser, said: "Targeting major donors is a fairly cost effective way of raising money."

A spokeswoman for Oxfam said that it had hired a specialist firm to analyse its existing mailing list and identify potential donors. "It is of limited use, but it does work. This year we received a donation of nearly £1 million. It was a very nice surprise."



The 600-year-old bonsai tree that once adorned the Japanese emperor's hotel room

Imperial bonsai may fetch £50,000 at Sotheby's

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE ancient art of bonsai is to return to the London auction rooms for the first time in more than a century, with one miniature tree expected to fetch about £50,000 when it is sold in June.

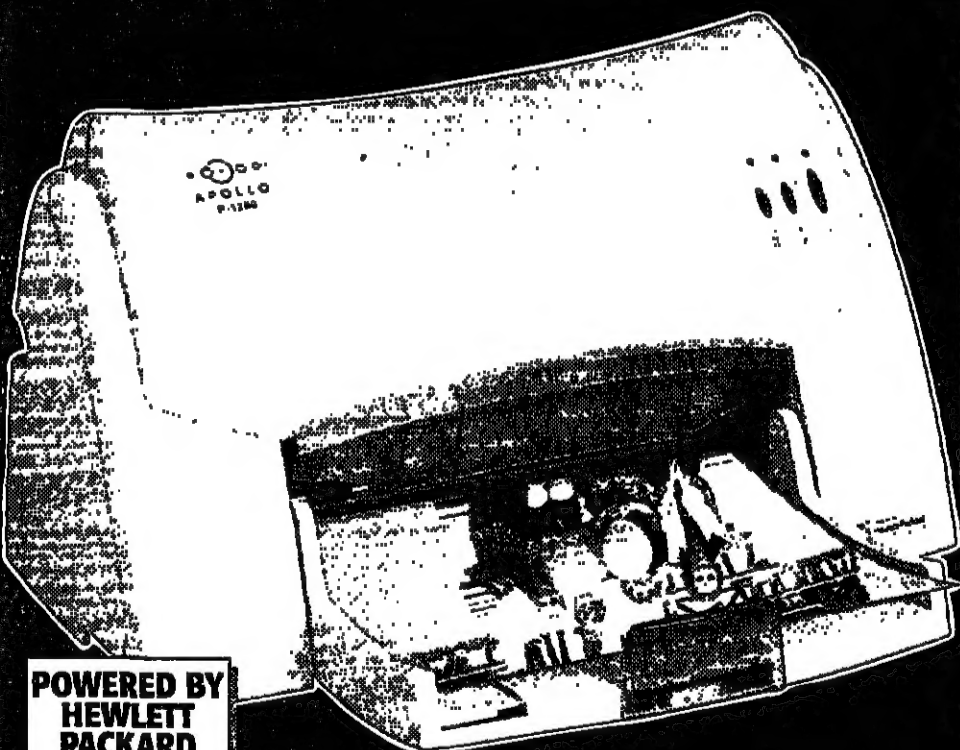
The 600-year-old yew, *Taxus cuspidata*, is known as "The tree of the emperor's gaze". It became well known at the end of the last century when it was placed in a room in the Oturu Hotel used by the Japanese emperor when he visited Hokkaido island to inspect the herring catch.

The tree is a *yamadori*, a naturally stunted specimen originally collected from the wild in the mountains. *Yamadori* are rare and valuable now that restrictions have been placed on collecting specimens and most bonsai are raised by painstaking horticultural techniques designed to mimic the effects of growing where trees are exposed to the elements in rocky or craggy mountain regions.

Mark Hill, bonsai expert at Sotheby's, the auction house that is staging the sale on June 17 as part of its Asia Week, said yesterday that a £50,000 value would probably represent the top end of the bonsai market in Europe.

□ <http://www.sotheby.com> is the Sotheby's website.

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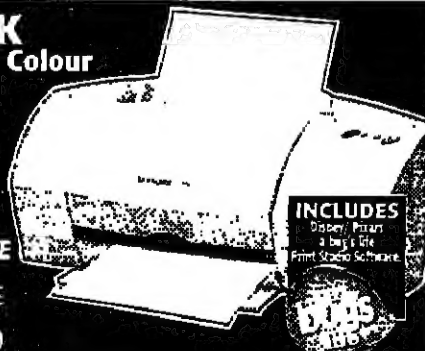
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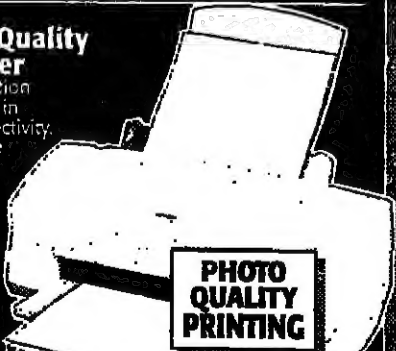
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How modern trees took root

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE tree that dominated the Earth's forests 370 million years ago had almost all the characteristics of its modern equivalents, scientists have discovered.

Specimens found recently in the Moroccan Sahara show that *Archaeopteris* had huge roots, a branching trunk, lateral buds on both branch and trunk, and could live for more than a century. The sum of knowledge about the extinct tree had previously been small because researchers had only been able to study pieces of its trunk.

Archaeopteris is now known to have been a large conifer-like tree, growing to 60 feet or more, but its leaves were like those of ferns and it spread by releasing spores. It made up to 90 per cent of the forests in the late Devonian period, when plants greatly reduced carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and boosted the levels of oxygen.

"*Archaeopteris* made the world almost a modern

world in terms of ecosystems that surround us now," Professor Stephen Schekler of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University said in *Nature*.

Professor Schekler, Dr Brigitte Meyer-Berthaud of the University of Montpellier and Dr John Wendt of the University of Tübingen sent to Morocco last year to look for specimens.

"In three days, we filled a truck," he said. "It was the first time we had seen trunk branching on *Archaeopteris*, and we found hundreds of examples. And we also found big roots, which had previously been mostly conjecture."

The trees had lateral buds that enabled them to keep growing when its leading tip died, a feature unique among plants of that era. It was also the longest-living of its time.

"Other plants ran out of ability to grow," Professor Schekler said. "These trees could grow for 100 years or more."



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Silcott ally's trouble with the law

THE SILCOTT FILE



WINSTON Silcott was jailed for life for the murder of PC Keith Blacklock, who died after receiving 42 knife and machete wounds in the Broadwater Farm riots. PC Blacklock, 40, had three children. Silcott's conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1991 after tests suggested that police might have fabricated evidence against him. He received about £17,000 compensation for his wrongful conviction. In 1988 Silcott had been convicted of the murder of Anthony Smith, 22, a boxer, during a fight at a party. He claimed he had acted in self-defence. The Criminal Cases Review Commission last year declined a request from Silcott's lawyers to refer the Smith case to the Court of Appeal on the ground of fresh evidence.

Convicted rapist claims repeated arrests are racial harassment by police. Dominic Kennedy reports

A LEADING member of the campaign to secure Winston Silcott's freedom, who has accused the police of racial harassment, has another reason why officers might regard him in an unfavourable light. Fifteen years ago Delroy Lindo, then a newly married disc jockey, was jailed for 30 months by an Old Bailey judge for rape.

But is that enough to explain why Mr Lindo has had to go to court to fight nine minor charges in the past three years, and been cleared of every one of them, or is Mr Lindo, now a 39-year-old father-of-three, justified in his claim that he has been persistently arrested by officers in a brutal campaign of victimisation for publicly supporting his childhood friend?

Mr Lindo says he has been harassed by the police since he began supporting Silcott, who was convicted of murdering PC Keith Blacklock in the Broadwater Farm riots in 1985 but was cleared on appeal eight years ago.

A year before the constable's death, Mr Lindo had been imprisoned for the rape of a 20-year-old typist. Could this be a reason for the police's scrutiny?

Mr Lindo has become one of the loudest voices against police racism. In February he delivered a petition to Downing Street as part of an anti-racism march, and he has helped to organise demonstrations against

the force. He has issued a writ against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, alleging malicious prosecution, assault and false imprisonment, which Scotland Yard has said it will defend.

Is it because of his high-profile campaigning against the police that Mr Lindo has been stopped 11 times and had to go to court on six occasions during the past three years?

He has been acquitted of nine offences, including breach of the peace, threatening behaviour, assault, criminal damage, obstruction and having an illegible car numberplate. His wife, Sonia, 37, a housing officer, was cleared of breaching the peace.

Mr Lindo's case has been highlighted in the national, local and ethnic minority press. The *Independent on Sunday* devoted an article to his complaints in September under the headline "Who's Be Silcott's Friend?". The *Weekly Gleaner*, a newspaper for the West Indian community, described Mr and Mrs Lindo as the victims of a police hate campaign.

Neighbours distressed by seeing the couple arrested outside their home in Hornsey, North London, wrote to Sir Paul about "a case of total harassment on the part of the police". The letter said: "They are lovely people, totally distraught at what is going on."

During the 1980s, Mr Lindo and Silcott ran a mobile discotheque. Mr Lindo was jailed in 1984 for raping the typist on the day he returned from his honeymoon. The Old Bailey judge said it was a nasty attack, aggravated by violence and sexual indignities.



Delroy and Sonia Lindo with supporters outside the court where he was cleared of his ninth charge in three years

and Silcott ran a mobile discotheque. Mr Lindo was jailed in 1984 for raping the typist on the day he returned from his honeymoon. The Old Bailey judge said it was a nasty attack, aggravated by violence and sexual indignities.

According to a trial report in a North London weekly newspaper, Mr Lindo grabbed the woman at a disco, took her to a

school playing field, hit her and raped her. Mr Lindo said she had invented the allegation to get revenge on him for marrying her.

After the riots on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, the police arrested Silcott, who was already on bail for the murder of Anthony Smith, a boxer, and he was accused of killing PC Blake-

lock. "I knew nothing about campaigning but I just knew I had to do something to help my friend," Mr Lindo, an unemployed housing official, said recently. "I started campaigning for him. I became a target from then."

The spate of arrests in the past three years coincided with a period when Mr Lindo was the driving force behind Silcott's unsuccessful campaign to be cleared of the Smith murder, for which he is serving life.

This week a jury at Wood Green Crown Court, North London, took 50 minutes to deliver a unanimous not guilty verdict after Mr Lindo's two-day trial for dangerous driving. Afterwards, asked about his rape conviction, Mr Lindo said: "That's got nothing to do with it. Why would they want to target me for anything to do with that? They arrested me for the riots, didn't they?"

"It's just unbelievable that you could be fishing around, to be trying to discredit me in such a way now. They have made it quite clear at the police station and during arrest that it is about Winston Silcott. My wife has no convictions at all. Why her?"

Mr Lindo has a point. His criminal record is legally spent and he has not been in trouble for 12 years. No one else in the area has been arrested and subsequently acquitted so frequently. So why does it keep happening?

There is speculation that senior police officers are now keen to avoid more wrangles with Mr Lindo, and there may be an out-of-court settlement of his writ. Meanwhile, Silcott is as firmly behind bars as ever.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said yesterday: "There are currently outstanding complaints. There is still an outstanding civil action. No date has been decided for a hearing."

After the ruling, Mr Pople's solicitor expressed deep disappointment that the defence ministry had managed to defeat the claim on technical grounds. Lawyers for the Defence Secretary had argued that each of the Services has individual powers over its personnel.

He was later sacked, despite being acquitted of scandalous conduct or conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. The tribunal, at Southampton, had been told that the 34-year-old Wren, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had kept her job because the Royal Navy adopted a more lenient approach than the Army to social misconduct.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Sellafield plutonium missing in Irish Sea

More than a third of the plutonium released into the sea from the Sellafield nuclear complex in Cumbria seems to have disappeared.

It had been assumed that the plutonium was trapped in sediments in the Irish Sea, but radioactivity monitoring shows a "shortfall" that represents 36 per cent of the plutonium released. Scientists believe that it may have been trapped in sand or washed to Scotland and Scandinavia.

Murdoch Baxter, former director of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Marine Environment Laboratory, told *New Scientist* that the discrepancies were "disappointing". "Having made these excessive releases into the nearshore environment of a populated area... they claimed for decades that almost all the plutonium had remained in Irish Sea sediments," he said.

A spokesman for British Nuclear Fuels, which runs the plant, said that to get figures to match so closely over such a long period was a good result.

Verdict of killing

Eric Nicholls, 64, a former mechanic of Sulhamstead, Berkshire, was jailed for 30 months for the manslaughter of a neighbour Anthony Jones, 82, a retired major, whom he beat with a walking stick.

Murder remand

Harry Pennells, 74, a former lorry driver, of Titchhurst, East Sussex, was remanded in custody accused of murdering an unknown woman, whose beaten body was found in Bedgebury Forest, Kent, in 1979.

Sex charges

Five men have been charged with indecent assault against former pupils of Sionyltydd College near Clitheroe in Lancashire, a leading Roman Catholic public school. Police predict further arrests.

Body in pond

The naked body of a man, badly beaten about the head, has been found in a pond at Blest, Oxfordshire. Police said the unidentified man, in his late 20s, had been in the pond for only a few days.

Crazy comeback

The Osmonds are in talks to play in Britain after a Virgin Atlantic advertising campaign used their 1972 hit *Crazy Horses* as a backing track. The American group also plans to re-release the single.

Carpet cleans up

A 1300-year-old scrap of carpet has fetched £29,900 at Bonhams in London. The fragment, found on a Cairo dump, is dirty and holed but is one of the oldest specimens of its kind.

Adulterous officer loses sex bias case

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A SENIOR officer dismissed from the Army after an adulterous affair with a high-ranking Wren, who has since been recommended for promotion, was not a victim of sexual discrimination, an employment tribunal ruled yesterday. The tribunal found that a woman Army officer behaving in the same way would have faced the same punishment. Keith Pople, 42, a lieutenant-colonel, appeared before a military court last April after a three-year affair with the Wren, whom he met while they were both working at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. He was later sacked, despite being acquitted of scandalous conduct or conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. The tribunal, at Southampton, had been told that the 34-year-old Wren, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had kept her job because the Royal Navy adopted a more lenient approach than the Army to social misconduct.

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Hosts make a song and dance of the celebrations, writes Alan Hamilton

Followed by her entourage, the Queen was directed into the inner apartments of the house — but not before being gently reminded to take off her

Villagers awaiting the arrival of the Queen in Hahoe

After a brief stop at a wholesale fruit and vegetable market, the Queen left with a gift of a basket of fruit including local apples. Next she went to a hilltop Buddhist monastery, for no reason other than it was there. The chief monk, the Venerable Moon-In, led the Queen up 13 steep stone steps to view his three golden Buddhas and

As he surveyed the landscape, loudspeakers in the distance blared rousing totalitarian marching music. Not a patch on the super soprano from Yorkshire.



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BY TEM REID

The young Princess was in South Africa with her father, George VI, during a tour to thank the Commonwealth for its war effort. In a memorable broadcast from Cape Town, on her 21st birthday,

But in 1970, on the Australian coral Green Island, the Duke of Edinburgh raised a few eyebrows when he told a persistent photographer that he had been running around "like a blue-arsed fly". It did not dampen things too much. The Queen was still greeted by a chorus of *Happy Birthday* from reporters.

Brian Keenan reviews
In The Cellar, the story
of a hostage. **Ray Jenkins**
on **Dean Acheson**, plus
Enca Wagner (right)
on **Andrew Greig's**
When They Lay Bare
Book review 42-43

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Airlines fear tourist revolt as delays rise

AIRLINES yesterday issued a warning of "chaos and catastrophe" across Europe this summer as they accused the international air traffic control service of causing huge delays.

Carriers including British Airways fear a wave of airport protests similar to those already seen in Spain, where passengers have refused to leave aircraft and even threatened to kidnap a pilot.

Delays to flights are at their worst and airlines predict that hold-ups this year will easily exceed those of the 1980s, when millions of passengers were stranded at airports.

Controllers claim that, because equipment in several countries is so decrepit, delays are the only way to maintain acceptable safety levels.

The first signs of the crisis emerged as one of Europe's biggest airlines, the Spanish carrier Iberia, announced that it was cancelling 16,000 flights to avoid huge delays in coming months.

The airline called on other carriers, including British charter firms taking more than five million tourists abroad, to boycott Spanish airspace because of the air traffic control problems.

It appeared yesterday, however, that airlines would stick to their flight plans, risking

**Air controllers
blamed for
runway chaos,
report Giles
Tremlett and
Arthur Leathley**

routine delays of three hours or more. Figures for the beginning of this year show a 44 per cent rise in the number of scheduled aircraft delayed by more than 15 minutes, with almost one in four flights held up in January.

The problems in dealing with record numbers of flights have reached crisis proportions, according to airlines that have experienced the biggest delays.

The Association of European Airlines, which represents 27 major airlines, including British Airways and British Midland, will tomorrow launch its own offensive to cut delays. It will demand that the central air traffic control service, based in Brussels, forces poor performers into line.

A meeting of Eurocontrol, the international air traffic control organisation based in

Brussels, will be told that the service is inefficient, with some radar equipment almost 30 years old. Airlines will demand that Eurocontrol takes on more powers to enforce improvements.

Karl-Heinz Neumeister, secretary general of the Association of European Airlines, said: "We will have catastrophe on the sun belt to the Mediterranean this summer. Already we are seeing a huge increase in delays and air traffic control services are nowhere near their targets for reducing delays."

Delays are expected to be exacerbated by the decision to close air space over Italy to accommodate Nato forces involved in the Kosovo conflict. Some of the most important air traffic control services in Europe, in Geneva, Zurich, Marseilles and Padua, Italy, are causing the worst delays.

Iberia said it would suspend 77 flights a day, or almost six per cent of its daily total. The move came after a number of airport rebellions by furious passengers on delayed flights.

In one rebellion, passengers called airport police and denounced the pilot for "kidnapping" after three hours on a runway. The Civil Guard had to board the aircraft after they threatened to lynch the pilot.



Cherie Blair, right, renews her acquaintance with Celia Larkin, Ireland's first lady, at the Women's Irish Network lunch at the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park Hotel in London

NEWS IN BRIEF

Urgent Bill to shield IRA killers

Parliament is to rush through a Bill to make it impossible for courts to hear evidence obtained during the recovery of bodies of people murdered and buried by the IRA in the 1970s.

The Bill, to be introduced as early as tomorrow, will also establish an independent commission to act as an intermediary between the IRA and the authorities. It will not offer amnesties to those responsible for the killings.

Last month the IRA said that it had found the unmarked graves of nine of the "disappeared", but insisted on having the legislation passed before revealing their locations.

Chefs' GM ban

The television chefs Antonio Carluccio and Rose Gray joined other top chefs to launch a campaign against genetically modified food. They will display a logo on their restaurant windows and menus showing that they are avoiding GM produce in their cooking. The Greenpeace campaign may be extended to food served at airports, on trains and in schools.

Law chief order

John Morris, the Attorney-General, has been ordered to disclose details of the secret consultations preceding the appointment of Philip Sales as First Treasury Counsel. Mr Morris was given until April 30 by an employment tribunal, which is to hear a sex bias case, to reveal the "secret soundings" with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Chief Justice and Master of the Rolls.

Babies hobbled

Many babies are not learning to crawl and walk properly because they spend too many hours buckled into push-chairs, rockers or car seats, a University of Michigan study has found. Researchers said that children who had not been allowed enough time to practise crawling and kicking showed poor balance and co-ordination and were fatter than others.

Presenter dies

The woman whose voice was known to millions through the phrase "Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin", has died. Eileen Mitchell, who presented *Listen with Mother*, also sang many of the nursery rhymes in the programme on which she appeared for about 15 years. Mrs Mitchell died aged 76 at Sevenoaks Hospital, Kent, after a long battle with cancer.

Art prize shortlist

In the youngest shortlist for the NatWest Art Prize, Britain's largest art award, the 11 artists have an average age of just 32. More than 600 entries, the biggest field so far, were submitted for the award, which aims to foster technical skills. The winner, to be announced on June 15, receives £26,000 and the other finalists each take £1,000. Full details, *Metro*, Saturday

Lawrences sue five suspects for damages

By MICHAEL HARVEY AND STEWART TENDLER

THE parents of Stephen Lawrence launched a civil action for damages yesterday against the five men suspected of killing their son.

For the first time all five men could face detailed cross-examination under oath before a jury about their involvement in the murder six years ago at a bus stop in Eltham, southeast London.

A civil action means that any evidence would be tested by a lower burden of proof than in a criminal case. Doreen and Neville Lawrence also issued writs in the High Court in London against the Metropolitan Police and Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, seeking compensation over the force's failed investigation of the killing.

The writs were issued the day before the sixth anniversary of Stephen's death and just within the time limit for launching civil actions.

The family's solicitor, Imran Khan, said: "I can confirm on behalf of Mr and Mrs Lawrence that I have today issued protective writs in the High Court against certain individuals considered to be responsible for the murder of Stephen Lawrence. This is for damages

arising out of and in consequence of the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

"I can also confirm that I have today issued a protective writ on behalf of Mr and Mrs Lawrence against the Metropolitan Police. The writ is for damages arising out of the failed investigation into the murder."

The writs have legal precedents. In 1991 the relatives of Lynn Siddons, 16, murdered in Derby in 1978, successfully sued Michael Brookes over the murder. The court awarded the family £10,000 and he was later convicted of killing the girl.

Three of the suspects in the Lawrence case — Neil Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson — were formally acquitted of the murder of Stephen three years ago when a private prosecution brought by the family collapsed. Under current law they cannot face further criminal charges for the murder.

The case against Jamie Acourt and David Norris was dropped before it reached court. In theory they could still be tried.

Last night lawyers for the suspects said they had not received official notification.

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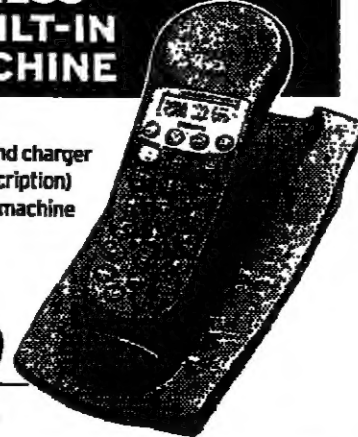
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Relatives stormed a ward to resuscitate this boy. Doctors say he should be left to die

Court asked to rule on parent's right to demand life-saving care, reports Michael Horsnell

RELATIVES of a profoundly disabled boy became involved in a violent dispute on a children's hospital ward when told that he should be allowed to die, a court was told yesterday. Doctors and police were injured in the fracas as the family tried to resuscitate him.

Carol Glass, 38, had been informed that her 12-year-old son, David, was dying and that "nature should be allowed to take its course" without medical intervention. She and about a dozen members of her family had gone to St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth after learning that, against her wishes, doctors had been instructed by the chief executive of the Portsmouth NHS Trust to give David diamorphine, the heroin-based painkiller that can hasten death.

Their efforts to resuscitate David during the altercation "prevented him from dying", according to a statement from Mark Ashton, a consultant paediatrician. He said that in normal circumstances staff would have recommended that the family hold the child and calm him while he was allowed to die peacefully. Instead, the family had pulled David from his bed to stimulate his breathing.

"Members of his family started blowing raspberries in his ears, banging his chest, and rubbing his arms and legs very vigorously despite being asked not to," Dr Ashton said. "In my view this was extremely cruel. He should have been allowed to pass away peacefully and with dignity. It was not in his best interests simply to keep him alive."

However, Mr Justice Scott Baker was told in the High Court that far from dying, the boy survived and now plays with his sisters at home, laughs, smiles, responds to voices and light, and enjoys days out with his family.

Mrs. Glass, from Portsmouth, who has three other children, has accused the trust of unlawfully acting contrary to her wishes. She is seeking a legal declaration to ensure that her son will be entitled to resuscitation and life-saving treatment if he needs to be re-admitted to hospital.

Richard Gordon, QC, for Mrs Glass, told the judge: "Clinicians at the trust came to the view as long ago as last July *that it was in the child's best interests not to take active steps to keep him alive.* The thrust of that view was that any life-saving treatment should be withheld and he should be allowed to die."



David Glass, while profoundly disabled, is said to play with his sisters, laugh, smile, respond to voices and enjoy days out with his family.

Two weeks ago a representative of the Official Solicitor, who is representing the boy in the case, visited him at his home. "We met David in his bedroom, sitting on the lap of one of his sisters," the court was told in a statement on behalf of the Official Solicitor. "We said, 'Hello.' His eyes were wide open and it was noticeable his head turned to the sound of voices."

David was born with hydrocephalus — water on the brain — which left him with blindness, spastic quadriplegia and severe learning difficulties. His mother describes his health as good and says he can eat and drink without a nasal tube. He

has been admitted several times to St Mary's throughout his life but is now being cared for at home with the help of community services.

raised about whether resuscitation should be provided. Mrs Glass had insisted that it should.

The fracas with the boy's family — the subject of a separate criminal case — had occurred in October, the day after staff had been instructed to prescribe diamorphine.

Mr Gordon said that because of the breakdown between the family and St Mary's Hospital, David would not be treated by Port-

smouth NHS Trust again, but at a hospital in Southampton

He emphasised that whatever the outcome of the case, it was "not an attempt to blame the doctors". Neither was it an attempt by Mrs Glass to "dictate to the clinicians whether and what treatment should be given to her son", or an attack on clinical judgement.

The object of the proceedings was "to ensure that the events that occurred in October cannot happen again

whenever or wherever the child is to be treated". He said that Mrs Glass had a legitimate concern about what would happen if a similar situation arose in another hospital and that the problem should be sorted out before it did.

Mr Gordon told the judges that in all cases in which doctors sought to withdraw treatment and allow a child to die without the consent of parents, hospitals should be required to seek the approval of the

courts and continue to give emergency treatment until such approval had been obtained.

Andrew Hockton, appearing for the Official Solicitor, told the court: "Our concern is that the applicant [Mrs Glass] appears to be trying to impose some kind of legal and procedural strait-jacket on an area of the law that has been left for good reason in many cases uncertain."

Teenager roused from coma by rugby triumph

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES
SOUTH WEST
CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGE rugby player who had been in a coma for six months reached out and grabbed a trophy that his team-mates brought to his hospital bedside.

Tom Bendall, 19, had shown little progress since being injured in a hit-and-run road accident, but when three friends showed him the cup that his team had won, the front-row forward raised his arms for the first time and took hold of the handle.

His parents, Haydn and Pam Bendall from Lydney, Gloucestershire, said that his condition had since improved greatly. "It was wonderful to see him finally starting to react to things. He grabbed hold of it well and I reckon he could have lifted it up on his own," Mrs Bendall said.

Her son's neck was broken in the accident last October. He spent three weeks at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol before being transferred to Gloucester Royal Hospital. Although he opened his eyes a week later, he had been motionless and unresponsive since, and doctors said that he could take years to recover.

Last week Lydney Colts, the under-19s side he played for, won the Gloucestershire County Cup by beating Cheltenham Colts 13-12. The following day, Mr Bendall's team-mates Mark Kiely, John Lewis and Lee Johnson took the cup with them on their weekly visit.

Mr Kiely, 19, said that he was speechless when his bed-ridden friend grabbed the cup. "Before the game we said we would win it for Tom because he was one of the main players in the team," he said. "It just shows how much his rugby meant to him."

Joe Willison, the manager of the hospital's head injury unit, said: "It's a gradual stage-by-stage process, but he is making good progress."

Carol Glass: concerned about future treatment



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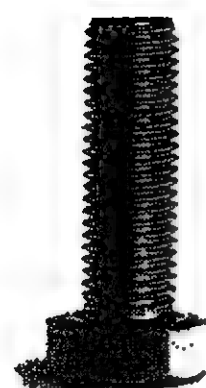
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Dewar eyes a full house

Labour's Scottish leader in waiting
is on a winning streak — with
bingo-goers, writes Jason Allardye

THE Secretary of State for Scotland looks as if he has just committed a most terrible deed. Donald Dewar is ashen-faced and his big hands are covered in a blood-red liquid — but he has something more serious than murder in mind.

Armed with a felt pen which is running all over the place, the man most likely to emerge as leader of Scotland's first parliament in 300 years is lost in a game of bingo in one of Glasgow's most deprived communities. Bingo is the new religion in Possilpark, where neon-lit, licensed hangars attract a following bigger than any local churches can hope for.

Mr Dewar is just one number short of a full house and the prospect of winning £100. Of course, the Scottish Labour leader would be far too much of a gentleman to take the money in a community blighted by drugs, high unemployment and poverty. He is here to demonstrate to ordinary Scots that his "conversation with Scotland", as the Labour Party has dubbed his

presidential-style 2,000-mile campaign around the country, is as relevant to a working-class audience as it is to the middle-income voters who propelled the party to power in 1997.

Donald Dewar is a rather awkward premier-in-waiting. He does not normally go in for media stunts like yesterday's, which also involved him calling the bingo numbers, with a little help from Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. Until a few months ago, he even resisted the efforts of Labour imagemakers to convince him that his 20-year-old overcoat had to go, that his heavy, horn-rimmed glasses should be replaced and that crisp shirts and snappy ties must become de rigueur.

As Scottish Secretary of State after the general election, he was even uneasy about the notion of being driven around by someone else in a government Rover — he only grudgingly accepted that it was part of the job.

Yesterday, on "Donald Dewar's Holyrood Express", Labour's Scottish battlebus, he still wasn't wearing a belt, and over lunch he insisted on picking at a plate of chips with his fingers. He may be two weeks away from governing Scotland but Donald Dewar is still Donald Dewar. While such characteristics make this man of the stilled soundbite appear rather odd, they also make him enormously popular, and



Donald Dewar, Mo Mowlam and local candidate Patricia Ferguson in Possil

have led him to be dubbed father of the Scottish nation. At the bingo in Possil, a better focus group than most of those which preoccupy the Labour Party, it was Mr Dewar's peculiar and sombre calling — "Three-seven, thirty seven: very sinister" — which drew the biggest cheers from the audience of 400 people. As he prepares for power, Mr Dewar, who is variously dubbed "The

Gannet" on account of his voracious appetite and "The Stork" on account of his gangly appearance, is clearly beginning to enjoy a campaign that is going his way.

Donald Dewar allows himself a smile. "I really do think it's coming our way," he says, "and it's a happy campaign for that reason."

Letters, page 25

English exiles who are backing SNP

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

THIRTEEN years after she moved from the East End of London to the North East of Scotland, Dot Jessiman met a politician at a party who asked her if she had ever considered joining the SNP.

When she pointed out that she was English, he laughed and replied: "What's that got to do with anything?"

Mrs Jessiman says it was that conversation with the late Allan Macartney, the Scottish National Party's former deputy leader, which convinced her to sign up. She now heads New Scots for Independence, a group whose 500 members are not Scottish but back SNP policies, including independence. The overwhelming majority are English but some are from France, Ghana, Germany, India and Belgium.

The devotion of the growing band of Englishmen and women to the SNP has caused surprise in some quarters. After all they are effectively voting to turn a part of the United Kingdom into a foreign country. But the activists accept that if Scotland votes for independence, they will be foreigners in the place they call home. "That doesn't bother me at all," said David Ashby, 46, a recent SNP recruit from Swindon in Wiltshire. "I cross a border when I go to France on holiday. Why should it bother me to cross a border back into England?"

Mr Ashby and his wife Carole moved to Cumbernauld 16 years ago. They joined the party this month after meeting their SNP candidate, Andrew Wilson, who introduced them to Alex Salmond, SNP leader. "We asked ourselves what party would really represent the country and came to the conclusion it was the SNP," Mr Ashby, who works in an electrical engineering firm, said.

"We are not placard-waving activists but it is frightening how ignorant people in England are about what is going on in Scotland. People down south do not seem to realise that Scotland is already a separate country and for people in England to turn around and say Scotland needs England, when it does not, is just ridiculous." They insist that they have never experienced anti-English racism. "The only racism was in London when I tried to pay for something with a Scottish pound note and got some snide remark about Jocks," Mr Ashby said.

He wants to become involved in the fight for seats in the Holyrood parliament. "It is all very well sitting around moaning and groaning but this is a chance to change things and I think we have a duty to do what we can."

Mrs Jessiman, 63, who has lived with her husband in Aberdeenshire since 1975, believes that a record number of English people in Scotland will vote SNP on May 6. "Once they come here they can see the injustice of being dictated to from Westminster, they remember experiments carried out in Scotland like the poll tax and they want to change all that," she said. Mrs Jessiman, who is standing as an SNP list candidate in North East Scotland, was a Labour supporter before she moved to Scotland. A former GLC housing officer, she left her family in Brent to live in a remote croft four miles from the nearest village. "The change could not have been greater," she said.

Why should it bother me to cross a border into England?

Mr Ashby and his wife Carole moved to Cumbernauld 16 years ago. They joined the party this month after meeting their SNP candidate, Andrew Wilson, who introduced them to Alex Salmond, SNP leader. "We asked ourselves what party would really represent the country and came to the conclusion it was the SNP," Mr Ashby, who works in an electrical engineering firm, said.

QUOTE of the day

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Labour leader, on almost winning a game of bingo in Glasgow.

"I was one number short of a full house."

today's AGENDA

Gordon Brown will speak in Glasgow. The Tories will focus on tourism, while the SNP will discuss justice. Jim Wallace of the Lib Dems visits a healthy eating initiative for young mothers in Pitlochry, Edinburgh.



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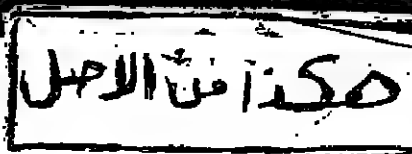
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Britain warns of Serb coup in Montenegro

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday gave a warning that President Milosevic was about to stage a coup in Montenegro, as confrontations between the Yugoslav Army and the Montenegrin police raised fears of an imminent showdown.

George Robertson, Defence Secretary, said Britain remained "vigilant and gravely concerned" about Mr Milosevic's intentions towards Montenegro. "We believe he may be about to undermine the position of Milo Djukanovic, the democratically elected President of that country."

After the killing of six Alba-

nians inside Montenegro by Yugoslav troops — which Belgrade disputes — the Montenegrin Government demanded the punishment of those responsible. It also threatened to dismantle a military checkpoint blocking the border with Croatia after a Yugoslav Army incursion into the demilitarised Prevlaka peninsula on the Adriatic on Tuesday.

"The block will not last long because we will clear it," Dragisa Burzan, the deputy Prime Minister, said. He gave a warning that the army was trying to become a "parallel authority." "By doing this, they

are increasing the possibility of conflict. I can say that we are close to the line."

The army yesterday blamed the killing of the refugees, including an old woman and a 13-year-old boy, on the Kosovo Liberation Army. But villagers said the Yugoslav Army was moving in to launch another assault on Kosovo.

Tensions rose higher yesterday after President Djukanovic rejected Belgrade's demand to put his loyalist police force under army command. Mr Burzan denounced the killing of the Kosovan refugees as a crime against humanity and called for war crimes. The Pentagon confirmed that the army has begun to drive Albanian refugees who escaped from Kosovo out of villages in Montenegro.

Nato yesterday repeated its warning that it was determined to stop any extension of the conflict to other countries and Mr Robertson accused Mr Milosevic of trying to destabilise the Balkans. "There is a monstrous evil in our continent," he said before leaving for Washington. "The events in Kosovo have brought to light some of the worst, most depraved aspects of humanity, genocide, ethnic cleansing, rape and the virtual decapitation of Kosovo Albanian society."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said on a satellite link from Skopje, Macedonia, that he believed that a ground war would be inevitable. Britain has repeatedly ruled out the use of ground troops, but said yesterday that more troops were being sent to Macedonia to be deployed as part of a peacekeeping force in Kosovo. Mr Robertson, underlining his careful choice of words, said only that the position on a "full-scale opposed invasion" remained as before.

The restless and resentful ally

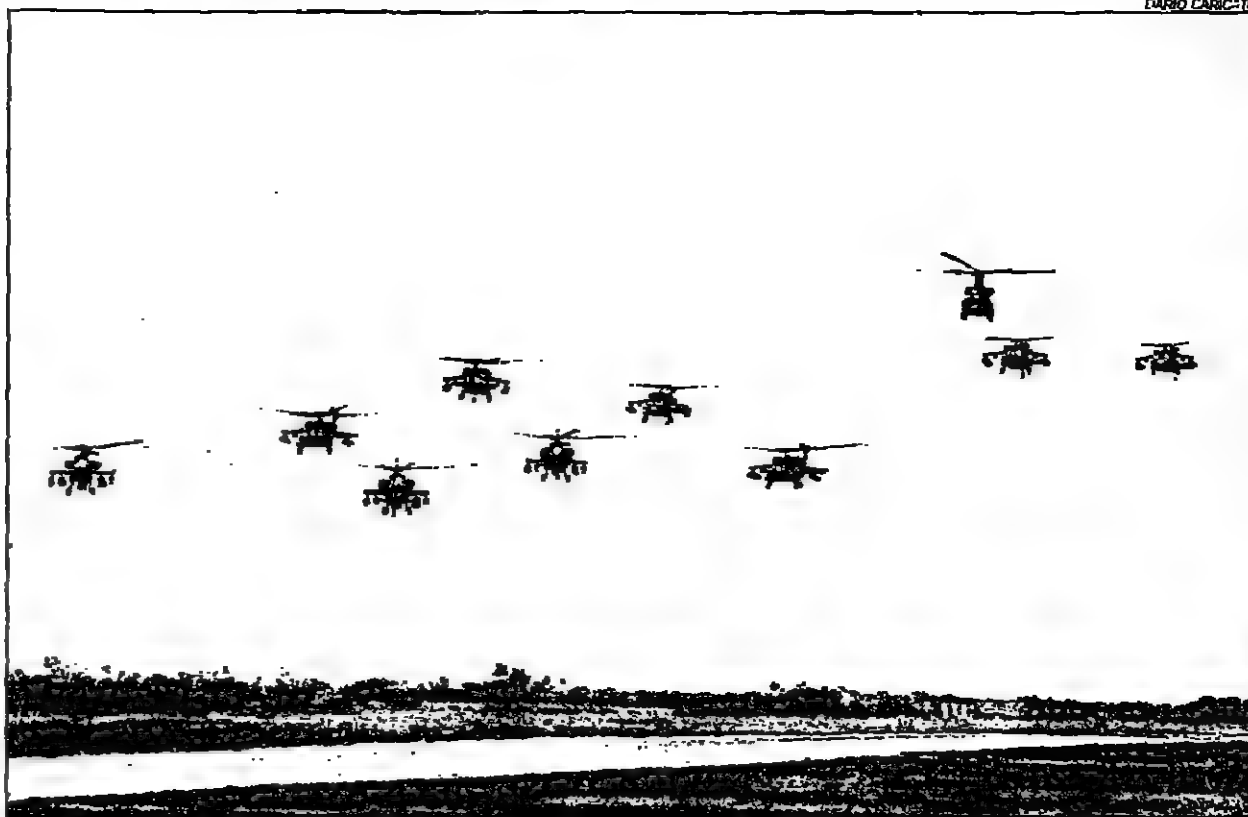
MONTENEGRO was the smallest and poorest of the republics that made up the former Yugoslavia, and the only one to stay with Serbia when the others broke away in 1992 (Michael Binyon writes). It has become increasingly restless at Belgrade's political and economic domination and resentful of the isolation caused by the sanctions on Yugoslavia. President Djukanovic came to power on an anti-Milosevic platform and a promise to conduct a more independent foreign and economic policy. Montenegro has separate trade agreements with Italy and Albania. In 1993 it dissociated itself, in effect, from the Serbian Orthodox Church.

A sixth the size of Serbia and with a population of 640,000, this land of spectacular mountains and lush valleys is ethnically divided between Serbs, Montenegrins and Albanians. Relations between them are tense. In 1941 Italian troops occupied parts of Montenegro, but by



late 1944 the Partisans, with British arms and equipment, controlled most of it. The Montenegrins were among the toughest of Tito's Partisans.

Since Nato's action began, Montenegro has taken in at least 70,000 Kosovan refugees, more per head of population than any of the surrounding countries. The Yugoslav 2nd Army has increasingly become Belgrade's instrument to enforce its will on the territory.



Three Apaches among a group of combat helicopters touching down in southern Italy en route to Albania yesterday.

FROM SAM KILEY IN KRUME, NORTHERN ALBANIA

First Apaches fly in to Albania

THE first American Apache "tank killer" helicopters arrived in Albania yesterday for a high-risk deployment in Kosovo that will test the resolve of Nato's leaders and the American public over the level of casualties they consider acceptable in the Balkans.

Intelligence sources have told *The Times* that the Apaches, armed with Hellfire missiles and heavy cannon, will be far more vulnerable to shoulder-launched missiles and anti-aircraft artillery than the high-flying jets that have led the air war so far.

"There are definitely going

to be casualties. Pilots are going to get shot down in Kosovo," said one Western intelligence agent who has worked closely with the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Several intelligence agencies have reported to Nato that the ability of Slobodan Milosevic's air defences against jets to function properly has been badly eroded by airstrikes. But the missiles themselves remain intact.

however, the Apaches that arrived yesterday, the first of 48, are a major threat to infantry and armoured units which have taken to travelling by tractor and trailer, posing as refugees. Since the accidental bombing of a refugee column last week, Nato pilots have been reluctant to risk hitting more civilians. But the Apaches, which are equipped with night vision and other sophisticated features are less likely to be fooled by Serb camouflage.

The helicopters, which will be based a few minutes from the border, will also be able to react more quickly to KLA and Nato special forces calls for air strikes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Refugee camp 'hit by Nato'

Majino Nasele: Four people were killed and 20 injured in a Serb refugee camp during Nato air raids, according to local police and witnesses. At least two devices were reported to have hit the camp, near Dakovica in Kosovo, which housed more than 200 Serb refugees who fled Croatia in 1995. The camp, formerly an agricultural centre, was hit at about 3am. A witness said: "Most of the people were sleeping. Everything happened in several seconds, nobody had time to escape." (AFP)

£13m for KLA

A first gift of more than £13 million has been promised to the Kosovo Liberation Army by Bujar Bukoshi, who controls the finances of the moderate Ibrahim Rugova's Kosovo Democratic League.

UN pessimism

Bangkok: Some Kosovan refugees may never return home, Brunson McKinley, head of the UN's International Organisation for Migration, said. Mr McKinley, in Thailand for a conference, likened their plight to that of the Kurds. (Reuters)

Navy build-up

Sevastopol: A missile cruiser led 30 Russian warships from this Ukrainian port for a ten-day exercise. Admiral Viktor Kravchenko, of the Russian Navy, said the exercises were not related to the Kosovo war. (AP)

Jets kill guard

Miami: Two F18 fighter jets from the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, on a Kosovo training mission off Puerto Rico, missed their target, killing a civilian guard and wounding four others who were directing the exercise.

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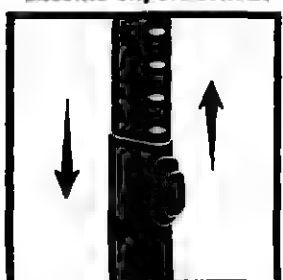
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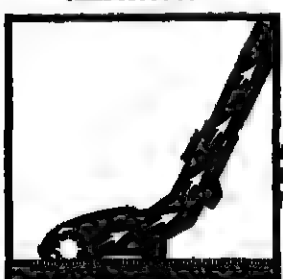
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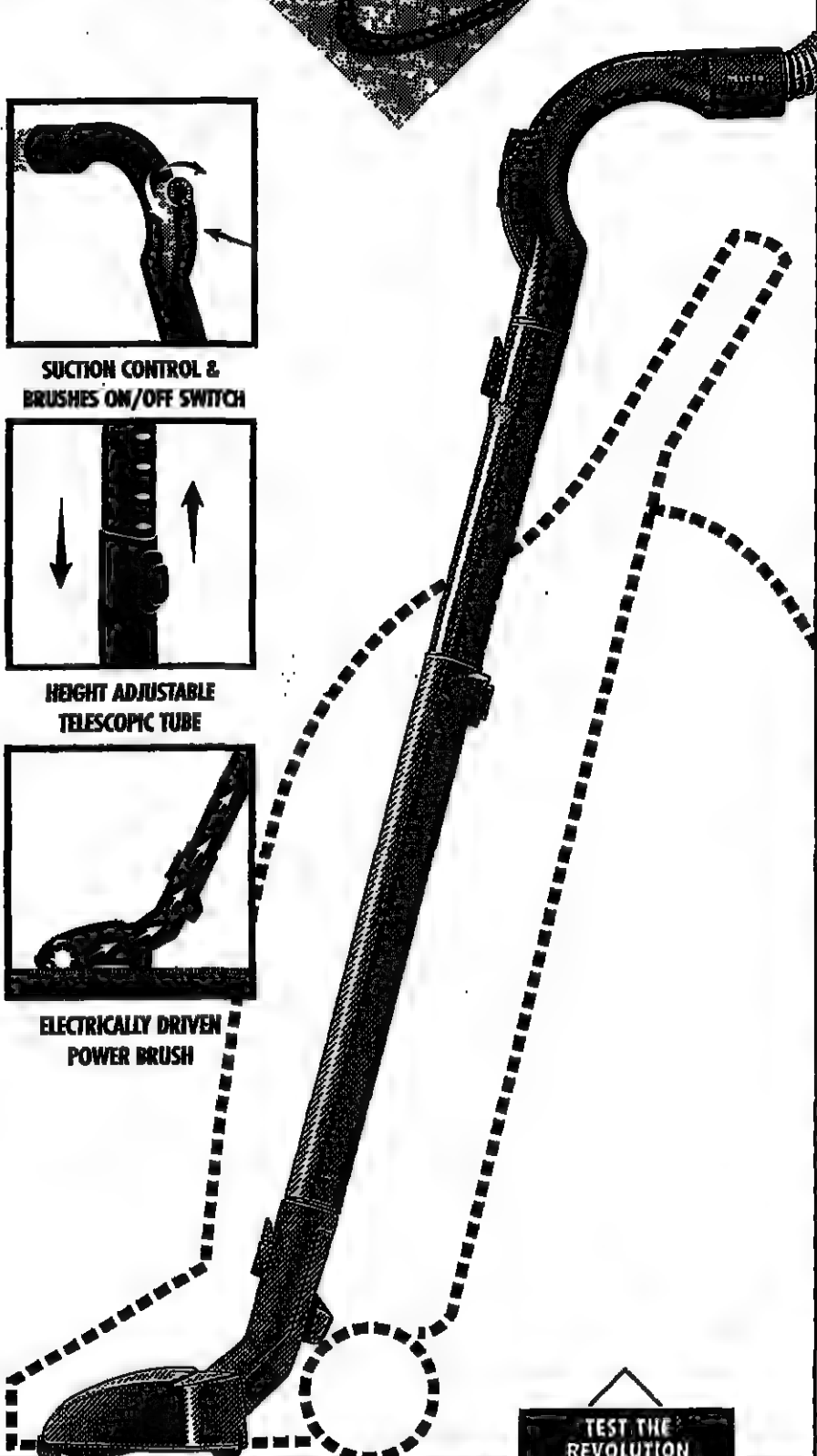
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TV soaps fall victim to 'flying circus'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

IT WAS an odd wake, the media gathering on the freshly mown grass as Goran Matic, frontman for the left in Yugoslavia, read the eulogy on the still-smoking and blackened skeleton behind him.

Reaching for descriptions to express this latest Nato outrage, he opted for a crowd pleaser; how else could you explain what was going on other than *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, he said.

Mr Matic, Minister without Portfolio, had just become minister without building. The hulk lying in the park beside the Sava and Danube rivers was none other than the Socialist Party headquarters of President Milosevic, struck by a Nato Tomahawk yesterday morning.

That was the eighth floor, above, on Floor 19, another missile had crashed into the offices of TV Pink and, further towards the heavens on Floor 23, yet another had scored a direct hit on Mr Milosevic's daughter's private radio and television station, Kosava.

If it was the dead parrot sketch to which the youthful Mr Matic referred, then this was definitely an ex-building. No longer would there be any mysterious Socialist cabals, such as those that brought Mr Milosevic to power; the former communist headquarters of Tito was hated by many, but nor would there be any more episodes of *The Simpsons* or the Brazilian soap opera *Esmeralda*, for which it was loved.

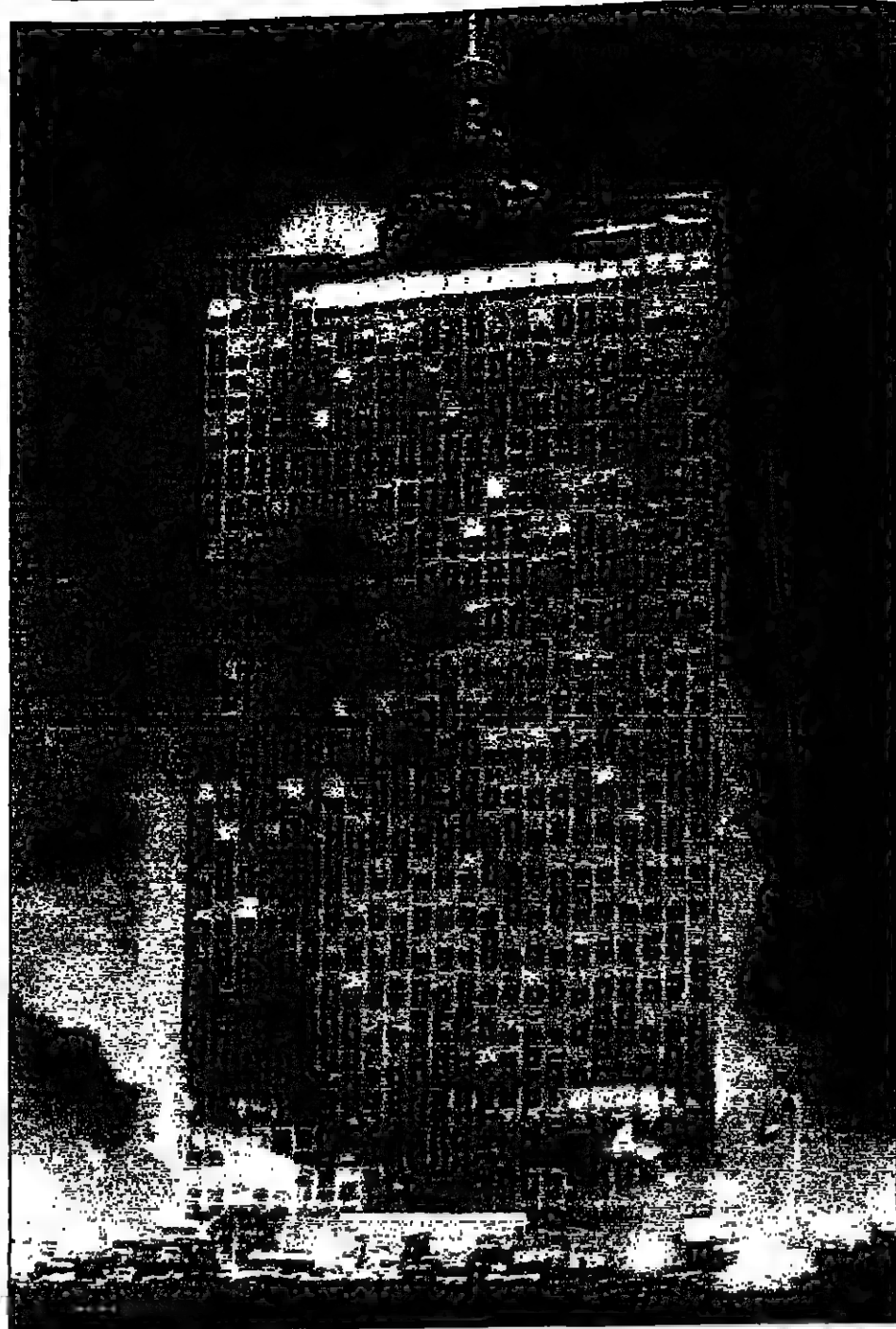
Even when hitting Mr Milosevic's party machine so directly, Nato had scored another own goal. "This building brought the people American movies and Western programmes," protested Mr Matic, who claimed four broadcasters were based in the tower. "It seems the freedom of the media is more dangerous to Nato than the military."

As usual after Nato's more spectacular strikes, there were confusing accounts of the damage. As the first pictures of the flames were broadcast on the few channels left, there was talk of 30 people having been trapped inside. Later Mr Matic made no mention of casualties, and it seemed the tower had probably been empty — this again leading to speculation that Nato gives advance warning of targets where "collateral damage" could be high.

Mr Milosevic was elected head of the then Serbian Communist Party at the tower in 1986, and his wife, Mira Markovic, has always been associated with TV Pink. Marija, their daughter, recently expanded Kosava's youth radio business into television. On other floors were many of the "export-import" businesses on which cronies of the regime grew fat. Robert Nemeck, Pink's programme director, promised the station would return. Of *Esmeralda*, watched by 40 per cent of the nation, he said: "They never saw the final episode because of the bombs."

In the park, gardeners began clearing away rubble and pieces of missile casing — the debris of Nato's flying circus.

BALKANS WAR



Direct hit: the building containing Slobodan Milosevic's party headquarters

It's time Nato gave its rhetoric a reality check

INTERNATIONAL summits are invariably a time for evasion, euphemism and fudge. But Nato leaders, meeting in Washington this weekend for the alliance's 50th anniversary, owe their citizens candour. There is a worrying gap between rhetoric and reality.

To listen to the daily briefings, you would think that everything is going according to plan, bar a little bad weather. But that is obviously nonsense. The Nato military operation is fully justified, but it was started in a muddled and confused way. Leaders underestimated the Serbian determination to expel the Kosovo Albanians in the most horrible imaginable way and overestimated the impact of bombing on President Milosevic.

The air campaign has, admittedly, seriously damaged the military capability of Serbia. But it has failed to prevent "ethnic cleansing". Indeed, the plight of the refugees on the borders of Kos-

ovo is now desperate. Means and ends are out of kilter.

That does not mean that the operation is wrong. Rather, Nato leaders should admit publicly what they are conceding in private, that a change of gear is now needed. The plan is clear: intensify air attacks (as is now happening) and prepare for the deployment of ground troops to permit the safe return of refugees.

While Nato leaders agree that "the difficulties of a land-force invasion of Kosovo against an undegraded Serb military machine are formidable", this leaves open the option of deploying troops when such "degradation" has occurred, when the risk of heavy casualties has been reduced. When this might happen has been left deliberately

vague. In part because of public opposition now. However, the issue has to be faced openly if the public is to be persuaded.

That needs to be coupled with a realistic statement of war aims. Denouncing President Milosevic as another Hitler achieves nothing except to solidify his support. Nato is not likely to agree a negotiated deal with him, and his regime will probably remain in power for some time, just as Saddam Hussein's has. It is no part of Nato war aims to oust him or to invade Serbia. So a Nato-run Kosovo will have to co-exist with an unfriendly, if not actively hostile, Serbia.

Kosovo has shown that Europe is still militarily dependent on the United States. Whatever happens within Kosovo itself, Europe needs even more urgently than before to improve its own capabilities. Frankness about both ends and means would be the best outcome in Washington.

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BALKANS WAR

EU move Serbia's

Blair top

For the first time in the history of the world, a major power has been forced to retreat from a conflict it had initiated. The British government has announced that it will withdraw its troops from Kosovo. This move is seen as a significant victory for the Serbian government, which has been fighting a long and costly war against the NATO-led coalition forces. The withdrawal of British troops is part of a broader strategy to end the conflict in the Balkans. The British government has stated that it will continue to support the NATO-led coalition forces in the region, but it will no longer have a direct military presence in Kosovo. This move is expected to lead to a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The British government has also announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from other parts of the Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. This move is seen as a significant step towards ending the conflict in the Balkans. The British government has stated that it will continue to support the NATO-led coalition forces in the region, but it will no longer have a direct military presence in the Balkans. This move is expected to lead to a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The British government has also announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from other parts of the Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. This move is seen as a significant step towards ending the conflict in the Balkans.

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— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

BALKANS WAR: ALLIES' LOYALTY

Where Nato's members stand

Government stance: Unlike Gulf War, from which Belgium distanced itself, the campaign is winning strong backing from centre-left coalition. More than 1,000 service personnel deployed, along with four F16 fighters. Tradition of support for humanitarian causes means much is made of refugees arriving since Sunday.

Public opinion: About 70 per cent favour air offensive; only 40 per cent back ground invasion.

Implications: No significant political parties are opposing the operation, but it is bound to become a factor in general elections on June 13.

Government stance: Behind Nato and would back sending ground troops, but prefers continuing bombing and favours using Apache helicopters. Has dozen CF18 jet fighters at Aviano with another six on way. About 650 military personnel in campaign.

Public opinion: Government support — about 71 per cent now back airstrikes — has risen steadily. Only 47 per cent favour sending ground troops. About 250,000 Serb-Canadians, plus as many of Slavic origin, are vociferously opposed.

Implications: May lose credentials as leading world peacemaker and internationally impartial.

Government stance: President Havel backs the airstrikes. Milos Zeman, the Prime Minister, praising the friendship between Czechs and Serbs, is sceptical, as is the Speaker, Vaclav Klaus.

Public opinion: Against military involvement in Kosovo — only about a third of Czechs support Nato action unambiguously.

Implications: Risk of an embarrassing exposure of the involvement of the Czech arms industry. Czech-manufactured anti-aircraft radar systems are apparently being used by the Yugoslavs. The Kosovo Liberation Army has also been buying from the Czechs.

Government stance: The Social Democrat-led Government has staunchly backed the air offensive, committing eight F16 fighters. Right-wing MPs unhappy that request to send submarine to Adriatic yet to be met.

Public opinion: Polls and letters to newspapers indicate solid support. In one poll, 65 per cent in favour of airstrikes and 46 per cent thought ground troops should be deployed.

Implications: Professional soldiers and right-wing parties think a government plan to cut defence spending by 2002 is now likely to be distinctly less stringent than had been proposed.

Government stance: Paris firmly behind Nato on airstrikes, with fighter jets playing an important role. Hubert Védrine, Foreign Minister, wants no change to present Kosovo strategy, but extreme right and the Communists are united against action.

Public opinion: Widespread support for ground intervention (64 per cent) amid growing doubts about effectiveness of airstrikes, still backed by 70 per cent.

Implications: Popularity of President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister, boosted, but fears of repercussions for Europe, and of provoking Russia.

Government stance: Germany committed to airstrikes, its first involvement in active combat since 1945. Fourteen Tornados in action, 3,000 troops are in Macedonia and a German frigate is in Adriatic. Ground troops will be used only to implement a peace deal.

Public opinion: Airstrikes supported by 64 per cent, with 30 per cent against. East Germans are most critical. Opinion still against, but shifting towards, Nato ground troop action — 33 per cent in favour, 55 against.

Implications: Medium-term risk that Green Party, seriously divided over airstrikes, will defect from Government, bringing it down.

Government stance: Socialist Government of Costas Simitis has been adept at walking tight-rope. Says morally obliged to help Nato but has ruled out contributing ground forces.

Public opinion: Opinion polls vary but all put anti-Nato bombardment figure at 92 to 97 per cent. Fuelled by Orthodox solidarity with Serbs and crafted Yugoslav TV images of burning cities and dismembered bodies. Anti-Americanism high.

Implications: Gloomy leaders fear a greater Albania and that northeast Turkish-speaking Muslim minority will seek autonomy.

Government stance: A fervent Atlanticist, it yesterday called for an intensification of airstrikes. Jozas van Aartsen, Foreign Minister, said there were still many options open to Nato, but use of ground troops was not realistic.

Public opinion: About 78 per cent back Nato air raids and 68 per cent would support using ground troops, according to a recent poll.

Implications: MPs are concerned that the costly air campaign will overstretch an already strained defence budget, and that the country will not be able to accommodate thousands of Kosovo refugees.

Government stance: A nervous Viktor Orban, Prime Minister, has cross-party support for airstrikes but with Nato bombs falling near border, pressure is growing to stay clear of action. No plans to contribute to military operations but air space available.

Public opinion: Decisively in favour of war — 60 per cent for, 31 against.

Implications: Long term, economy will suffer, investors avoiding a front-line state. Danube blockade and collapse of Yugoslav exports taking toll. Danger that Serbs turn on 300,000 Hungarian minority in Vojvodina region.

MAJORITY opinion in most of the countries belonging to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) is behind the continuing airstrikes against Yugoslavia as leaders of the alliance gather in Washington to mark its fiftieth anniversary.

Support for sending in ground troops, however, lags behind. Both the British and French governments can count on a strong public endorsement of their hawkish stances.

In the US, acceptance of the need for ground forces is growing, but the leaders of nations in central and southern Europe face a harder task when it comes to persuading their citizens of the merits of taking such military action.

Government stance: Iceland's mainly conservative coalition Government fully endorses Nato's action. Iceland has no army. Political parties are preoccupied with imminent election; reaction to government line has been muted.

Public opinion: Before break-up of the Soviet Union and of the Warsaw Pact, Nato membership was widely seen as strategically necessary. Today many feel uneasy about supporting military action for the first time.

Implications: There may be calls for a rethink of Iceland's Nato membership, which used to be seen as a defensive coalition, useful to keep the Russians at bay.

Government stance: Italy has played a pivotal role in the conflict, providing 11 air bases for Nato attacks. Massimo D'Alema's centre-left coalition includes an anti-war Communist faction; he has managed to combine loyalty to Nato with promises of a "swift end" to the bombing.

Public opinion: predominantly and increasingly anti-war; ranges from total opposition on far left to concerns at proximity to conflict.

Implications: Fears that Italy will have to take in more refugees and that south's shaky economy will be hit. Fears of more instability among Balkan neighbours.

Government stance: This tiny Nato state has gone along behind the campaign without great enthusiasm from its Government, led by Jean-Claude Juncker, the centrist Prime Minister.

Public opinion: About 60 per cent of the public support the goals of the air offensive but there is little backing for a ground invasion.

Implications: The possibility of a prolonged war is worrying this key EU financial centre and leading federalist state, which is vulnerable to big movements in the European economy. A long conflict is also likely to further erode the euro's value.

Government stance: All parliamentary parties agree with the centrist minority Government's support for Nato action; Milosevic is regarded as an evil great enough to justify use of military force. Unhappy over information about bombed refugee convoy.

Public opinion: Kosovo ground action backed by 43 per cent, with 36 against, but military capability stretched by United Nations duties.

Implications: Nato has widespread support, but emphasis may be even more on UN solutions should the military campaign be unsuccessful.

Government stance: The Polish Government is the most enthusiastic of the new Nato members from Central Europe about the alliance's action in the Balkans. It has sent 120 soldiers to Macedonia. There is no serious criticism from the ex-Communists. The Government would probably be ready to contribute to a ground force contingent.

Public opinion: Still backs the airstrikes though it dipped after Nato hit a refugee column.

Implications: In the long term, significant participation by Polish ground troops would have the effect of accelerating the modernisation of the Army.

Government stance: Portugal backs Nato's action and has put fighter planes at its disposal; unwilling to take part in ground offensive. Battalion will give humanitarian aid to refugees in Albania.

Public opinion: Two-thirds of those asked in a poll opposed a ground assault. Observers accuse Government of capitulating to US aims and not lack of concern in international community over the bloodshed in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony.

Implications: The conflict is far away, and is seen as having no direct impact on Portugal other than refugees possibly arriving.

Government stance: Under José María Aznar, Prime Minister, remains steadfast in backing for campaign. Leading opposition group, the Socialist Party, also expressing support, mainly because Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, comes from its ranks.

Public opinion: Greater division, with 55 per cent backing Spanish involvement and 39 per cent against. Similar number say they would back a ground war.

Implications: Spain has no strategic interest of its own in the Balkans, but is increasingly keen on a strong Nato, which would protect it against any threat from North African countries.

Government stance: Turkey, mindful of the Kurds, may have been chary of encouraging interference in ethnic problems, but more than rallied round when it saw the humanitarian disaster. Committed F16s and opened camps for many refugees. Will consider sending ground troops.

Public opinion: Kosovo's pain is deeply felt. Most of the victims are Muslim; some are ethnic Turks with relations in Turkey.

Implications: Greatest danger seen in a Nato climbdown. Turkey and Greece have long been estranged; no one takes the threat of their fighting entirely seriously.

Government stance: Insists that to end war refugees must return, full security be enforced and monitored by international force, and Yugoslav Army and police units be withdrawn, giving access to aid agencies. Referendum to decide future. Sees little chance of Kosovo staying in Serbia.

Public opinion: Strongly supportive of action, with 73 majority backing airstrikes. Growing calls for use of ground troops, but significant minority inside and outside Parliament oppose war.

Implications: British forces may stay in Balkans for years; cost will bring calls for reverse of defence cuts, limiting other spending.

Government stance: Washington is demanding withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo, return of refugees and postwar autonomy for the province. Also planning for postwar rebuilding.

Public opinion: Polls show slightly more than 50 per cent of Americans now favour use of ground troops. Majority support the air campaign but are apprehensive about outcome.

Implications: Debate will be revived between isolationists, who question America's Nato membership, and internationalists, who support its role as world policeman.

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and Nuclear theft 'badly harmed US'

Ben Macintyre reports on a damning CIA assessment of Chinese spying

AMERICAN security was seriously damaged by the Chinese theft of designs for the most sophisticated nuclear warhead in the US armoury, according to a damning CIA report.

The report, which was widely leaked before its expected release yesterday, comes after a series of allegations that Chinese spies penetrated US nuclear weapons laboratories in the 1980s. It contradicts White House assertions that evidence of Chinese atomic espionage is inconclusive so far.

China has repeatedly denied the allegations of spying, but the CIA review team concluded that Chinese agents

stole secret design data for the W88 warhead from the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory.

The W88 is an advanced miniaturised nuclear warhead launched from submarines and the report said that the theft from Los Alamos enabled China to develop its own version of the weapon, which allows multiple warheads to be attached to a single intercontinental ballistic missile.

In 1995, US intelligence first noted the sudden strides being made in China's warhead programme; investigations indi-

cated that China had leaptfrogged ahead in its weapons development using stolen US nuclear designs. The CIA report also investigated the implications of China's development of a missile with several warheads capable of striking multiple targets.

On his trip to America this month, Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, said Chinese scientists had developed the country's nuclear weapons programme without the help of stolen US information.

Congress and the Adminis-

tration have launched a series of investigations into the espionage claims, focusing on why Wen Ho Lee, a Taiwan-born scientist removed from his post at the Los Alamos laboratory last month, was allowed to continue working at the laboratory long after he was suspected of providing China with information on the W88.

Mr Lee, who has not been charged, was made responsible for updating nuclear weapons software at the laboratory in the spring of 1997, several months after the FBI had be-

gun the investigation in which he became the prime suspect.

Senate and House committees are also investigating whether the Administration was slow to respond. The theft was detected in 1995 and reported a year later to officials, including Sandy Berger, now National Security Adviser, but laboratory security was not improved until last year.

The White House has sought to downplay the allegations of Chinese espionage and last month President Clinton said that "the investigation

has not yet determined for sure" that it occurred.

In evidence given at a hearing on Chinese espionage last week, Notra Trulock, an Energy Department intelligence adviser, said that initially he had been prevented from telling Congress about his concerns; officials feared US-China relations might be damaged.

The CIA damage assessment concluded that, as well as stealing secret material, China had got information from other sources, such as academic communications between Chinese and US scientists in which information was passed inadvertently to Beijing.

WORLD SUMMARY

King's visit heals rift with Syria

Jerusalem: An end to years of strained relations between Syria and its pro-Western neighbour, Jordan, was signalled when the new Jordanian ruler, King Abdullah II, received a warm welcome from President Assad during his first state visit to Damascus (Christopher Walker writes).

The trip follows the funeral of King Hussein two months ago, when the Syrian leader arrived unexpectedly on his first visit to Jordan in five years and spent over an hour in talks with the new King. Yesterday's visit opened the way to a new Jordanian-Syrian axis after years of animosity arising from many causes, including bitter Syrian opposition to Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Sources in Amman said Mr Assad was pleased by the late King's decision to replace his brother, Prince Hassan, as Crown Prince with Abdullah. Syria had accused Prince Hassan of backing the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood group which carried out bombings in the country in the 1980s.

Khmer Rouge trial set

A Khmer Rouge guerrilla commander is to be put on trial for the murder of Mark Slater, a British backpacker from Corby, Northamptonshire, a Frenchman and an Australian, who were snatched from a train in Cambodia in 1994 (David Watts writes). No date for the trial of Nuon Paet has been set and investigations could take up to three months. The three men were bludgeoned to death.

'Meddling' in Games

Australia's representative on the International Olympic Committee, has strongly criticised America for interfering in the movement despite the IOC's house-cleaning (David Watts writes). Kevin Gospar said the American decision to deny free status to US corporations' support of the Olympic movement would threaten money that had in the past been used to promote sport in less-developed countries.

Neo-Nazis burn hostel

Bonn: Four people were taken to hospital with smoke poisoning after neo-Nazis set a refugee hostel ablaze at Freiberg in Saxony, eastern Germany (Roger Boyes writes). The attack, on Tuesday, was probably intended to mark the 110th anniversary of Hitler's birthday on Tuesday. In the Austrian city of Graz, a Jewish cemetery was vandalised with swastikas. Some Jewish gravestones were also daubed in Germany.

Timor peace pact

Warring factions in East Timor signed a peace agreement which the Indonesian military vowed to enforce (David Watts writes). Leaders of the militias which have clashed over ties with Indonesia signed the pact at the home of Bishop Carlos Belo, the Nobel Peace Prize winner. The agreement does not specify disarmament. Today Indonesia and Portugal resume talks on the proposed autonomy pact for the territory.

Wild Amazon chase

Jakarta: Indonesian authorities will try to establish whether a tribe of cannibalistic women exists deep in the jungles of the remote province of Irian Jaya. Reports of the so-called Bok tribe have claimed that it consists of 20 big-bodied women who eat human flesh, roam naked in the Mamberano jungles, and kill the men after kidnapping them for mating. A previous official attempt to locate the tribe failed. (AFP)

Lost vote could be final blow for Yeltsin

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN suffered what could be a fatal political blow yesterday when Russia's Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, voted once again to reject the resignation of Yuri Skuratov, the Chief Prosecutor and a key player in a continuing sex and corruption scandal.

The surprise decision is in defiance of the wishes of Mr Yeltsin, who failed to get rid of Mr Skuratov in a similar vote last month. *Kommersant-daily* wrote yesterday that, if Mr Yeltsin failed to secure the support of the Federation Council, it would be tantamount to his impeachment. The council fell 29 votes short of the 90 votes needed to accept Mr Skuratov's resignation.

This is a colossal political loss for the President and it will mean a political crisis whose consequences cannot be guessed at," said Andrei Piontovsky of the Centre for Strategic Studies.

Mr Skuratov, who has been investigating alleged bribe-taking by Kremlin officials, was suspended when charges of abuse of power were brought against him after the showing of video material showing him cavorting with prostitutes, but it is alleged that the prostitutes were provided by people wishing to avoid prosecution.



A policeman in riot gear stands guard near a smouldering barricade in Kingston in the wake of tax protests

Flights hit by rioting in Jamaica

MIAMI: TROOPS patrolled Jamaica's capital, Kingston, yesterday after protesters blocked streets and confronted police over a series of new government taxes to tackle the country's mounting debt and a banking collapse, writes David Adams.

The Foreign Office warned against all non-essential travel there as many businesses remained closed for a second day after rioting on Monday resulted in at least one death. British Airways and American Airlines suspended flights to the island.

Police say they opened fire on the rioters with teargas and warning shots, but deny firing into the crowds. At least six people suffered bullet wounds. The protest was ignited by a hike in petrol prices — up to £1.25 a gallon from 97p — and a 30 per cent rise in vehicle licensing costs.

Space, the final frontier for rich tourists

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

PACK up your moon boots and head for the stars. According to the European Space Agency (ESA), holidaymakers may be able to take trips into space in the near future and stay in hotels orbiting the Earth. Even vacations on the moon should be feasible by the middle of the next century.

The announcement that space tourism could soon become a reality

came as the first of two conferences devoted to the subject opened in Bremen, Germany. The four-day conference coincides with the release of an ESA study on the long-term prospects for space travel.

Geraldine Naja, who is in charge of European policy and perspective at the ESA, said she expected sub-orbital trips into space — lasting several hours and in which passengers would be able to experience a few minutes of weight-

lessness — to be available in as little as ten years.

"A space hotel featuring zero gravity amusement parks and swimming pools could be a reality by 2020 and would be ten times more fun than Space Mountain at EuroDisney," she said.

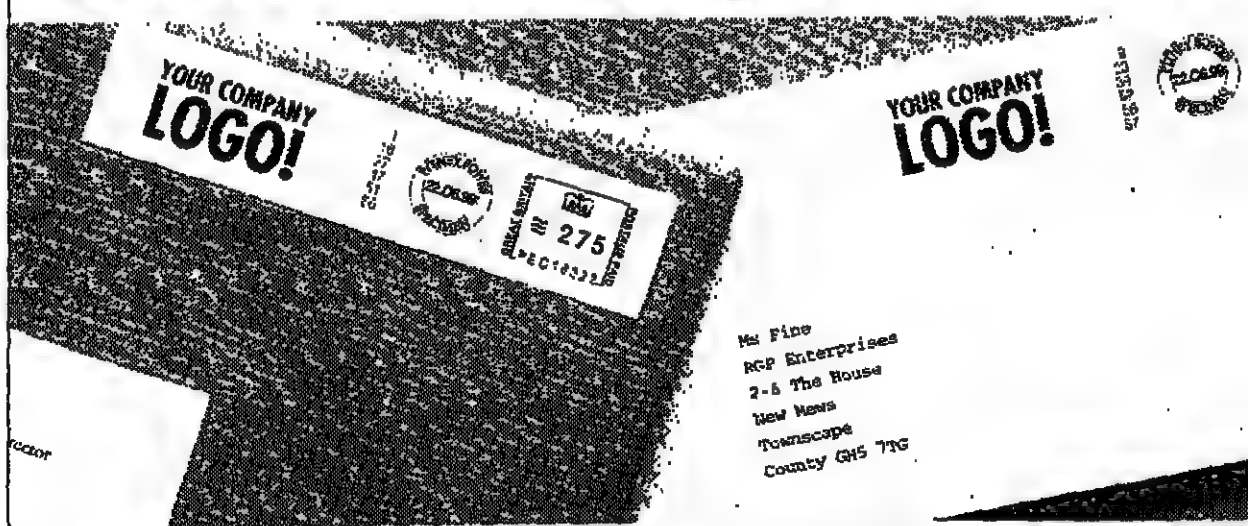
Building the space hotel should pose few problems as the necessary technology already exists. The trouble lies in how to get there. "The rockets we have

at the moment are just too risky and expensive to make tourism viable," she said.

However, the ESA is confident that the necessary breakthroughs which will make space travel sufficiently safe and affordable will not be long in coming. It is difficult to estimate the cost of a trip into space, but sums of £50,000 for a one-hour flight have been mentioned. However, the ESA believes finding customers will not be a problem.

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- Free classic carry case



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on John Diamond and oral cancer; nappies that are kind to the environment; treatment for depression; the benefits of drinking sheep's milk; and progress in the treatment of leukaemia

Go green, throw a nappy on the compost heap



Babies in disposable nappies stay drier and can be changed quicker, but the used nappies create a major landfill problem. Now there is a biodegradable alternative

ARCHAEOLOGISTS excavating a landfill site in Sussex in 500 years' time will still be able to find traces of granddaughter Alice's misnamed "disposable" nappies. Every discarded nappy takes this long to break down as a result of the plastic in its outer cover. Nine million disposable nappies are used every day in the UK, more than three billion in a year. They are beginning to represent a considerable environmental problem.

The dilemma of nappies did not affect my generation. We had Harrington squares as the outer nappy and muslin as a lining. They were so expensive that there was no question of disposal. They were laundered and, crisp and white, used repeatedly. Disposable nappies are quicker to put on, keep the baby's skin much drier and therefore reduce the incidence of nappy rash and other skin troubles, but they are a landfill menace.

Enviro, an enterprising manufacturer from Luton in Bedfordshire, has set out to market nappies that keep the environmentalist happy but still spare the 98.5 per cent of new parents, who opt for the convenience of disposable nappies, hours of washing. Enviro produces the Weenee disposable nappy, which is compostable. It was awarded a bronze medal at the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva and sells readily in Australia and New Zealand, where there are tax incentives to encourage families to use recycled nappies (my children's old Harrington squares) or compostable disposable nappies, such as the Weenee, that contain no plastic.

All listeners of gardening programmes know the value of the compost heap. The latest ingredients to go with the grass clippings, weeds and degradable household rubbish are Weenee nappies.

The manufacturers suggest that dirty plastic-free nappies should be flushed down the lavatory, and that wet ones should go on the compost heap. The nappies can be bought with nappy bags that are also compostable and biodegradable.

● Enviro (UK) Ltd, 37 Frederick Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 7QW: 01582 494999.

Living with cancer

Even though the tens of thousands of busy doctors listed in the *Medical Directory* need to choose their reading with care, the account of facing cancer of the tongue by John Diamond, *The Times* columnist, should still have an assured readership.

Diamond's book *C: Because Cowards Get Cancer Too* should be compulsory reading for doctors, not only because it highlights so many clinical lessons but because he wittily dissects the medical fraternity, their mannerisms and professional idiosyncrasies just as carefully as they dissected the tumour from the back of his tongue.

The book is brilliantly written, will fascinate and, despite the tragic subject, amuse and inspire both lay readers and the medical profession. Diamond has the ability to explain the complex aspects of his cancer in a way that makes it readily understandable.

Diamond developed a swelling in his neck that was attributed to glandular fever, infectious mononucleosis. The "gland" did not disappear but its continuing presence alarmed no one except Diamond. There is still the myth

that glandular fever is a disease that waxes and wanes, despite research in Oxford, which showed that there is scant evidence for this.

As weeks went by Diamond's glandular fever was relabelled "persistent glandular fever" and then "chronic glandular fever". It transpired that the lump was not a gland but a branchial cyst — a fairly rare condition, though not one to silence a medical meeting. When the cyst was aspirated, and cells were extracted, the pathologists found malignant cells. The tumour had already spread to the nearby lymphatic glands. Even so, it was many months before the primary site of the cancer, at the root of the tongue, was discovered.

Cancers of the tongue are included in the general term "oral cancer". Diamond's book, and his accounts of his cancer in *The Times*, have made compulsive reading and alerted the public, doctors and dentists to the need to be watchful. In the European Union as a whole, oral cancer is more common than cervical cancer, and any person in Britain is twice as likely to die from it as from a drink-driving accident. There are 900 deaths a year in this

country from various oral cancers and 2,000 new cases are spotted annually.

A recent paper published by the Royal College of Surgeons shows that oral cancer is more common in the 20 to 40 age group than previously; cases occur even in the teenage years, and increasing numbers of women are being diagnosed. In general, however, it remains a disease of the older age groups, and 85 per cent of cases occur in the over-50s. When the cancer does develop in younger people, diagnosis is more likely to be delayed, and research has shown that the chances of a diagnosis being made while the tumour is still curable is, at best, rare under the age of 30.

The earlier an oral cancer is detected, the more likely the patient is to live and the less destructive surgery has to be. When the tongue is the primary site, as in Diamond's case, 26 per cent of tumours are, like his, in the posterior third of the tongue, 47 per cent around the edges, 9 per cent on the underside, 11.5 per cent at the tip and 6.5 per cent on the centre of the tongue. Cancer of

the back of the tongue spreads to the tonsils and the soft palate and thereafter to the lymphatic glands in the neck at the angle of the jaw. Only in about 2 per cent of cases does the cancer travel to distant organs. The tumour is most common in smokers, particularly when associated with alcohol. Early detection improves the survival rate from 50 to 80 per cent. With this in mind, a system of screening using a mouthwash dye containing toluidine blue, OraScreen, which is selectively taken up by cells that might be malignant, or pre-malignant, is employed. Dr Gerald Feaver, senior dental adviser to Marks & Spencer, with Terry Morrison and Dr Gerry Humphris, of Liverpool University, report in *Primary Dental Care* that screening with OraScreen is an acceptable and effective way of improving detection rates of the tumour. OraScreen has a 94 per cent sensitivity in detecting cancers of the mouth and even picks up lesions that do not look suspicious but which are malignant.

● *C: Because Cowards Get Cancer Too* is published by Random House, £6.99

PEOPLE WHO are clinically depressed suffer from the misconception that their troubles are theirs alone. Speakers at a recent conference on the topic in London, organised by the National Depression Campaign, said a depressive shares strikingly similar symptoms at any one time with — and the campaign quotes a remarkably exact figure — 4,385,689 other Britons.

One woman in four and one man in ten suffers depression at some time or another and requires professional help. The good news is that 80 per cent are helped by treatment, as long as they continue to take the medication and their doctor continues to prescribe it for an appropriate length of time — usually six months.

At this conference the National Depression Campaign was dealing with the impact of depression on the patients' friends and family. The general view was that families are sometimes marginalised by medical and social services and are more likely to be seen as causes of the trouble than as agents who may help in the patient's recovery.

The overwhelming view of the lay public is that their relative or friend's depression is the result of money problems, bereavement or illness in the family, work or relationship difficulties. The importance of the underlying physical problems that render a patient vulnerable to these trigger factors is seriously underestimated. However, women, more often than men, realise that an

Keep taking the pills



Depressives: not alone

abnormal biochemical or hormonal balance may be the underlying cause of the patient's depressive state. Nearly 90 per cent of relations would welcome more support when they are looking after their relative, and more information about their troubles.

At its last conference, the Campaign dealt with the problems that depressed patients have at work. A poll showed that 63 per cent of employers

were likely to be prejudiced against employing a person who had a history of depression, even though more than eight out of ten people are aware that the disease is treatable. Not surprisingly, most patients with a psychiatric history conceal it from their employers. However, this deprives employers of the opportunity of modifying work surroundings and reducing the chance of a relapse. Potentially depressed workers are unusually vulnerable to excessive noise, inappropriate lighting, a mismatch of skills and role, and any uncertainty of what is expected of them.

The Health Department's figures showed that only one in two people with depression consults a GP. Of these, half are incorrectly diagnosed at the outset and, of these, only 50 per cent receive adequate medication. Many patients do not help themselves — only half given the correct dose took it for more than 28 days. This means that only seven in 100 are effectively treated.

IMS Health, a medical data-collecting organisation, suggests that the figure of 4,385,689 sufferers from depression may already be wrong. Its research shows that numbers have doubled between 1994 and 1998 from four to nine million, and its studies show that even with correct diagnosis, only 39 per cent continued to take antidepressants for the minimum period of six months. Regrettably the average dose prescribed is usually half that recommended by specialists.

A healthier chance of leukaemia survival

IN 1979, when Margaret Thatcher first moved into 10 Downing Street, Lawrence Faldo became the first person to receive a bone marrow transplant in Britain from an identical twin. Lawrence was 27 and had leukaemia. Twenty years on, unlike Mrs Thatcher's government, he is still going strong and the father of triplets, two boys and a girl, now aged nine.

The three are due to ride in a bikeathon for Leukaemia Research in Battersea Park on Sunday, June 13, when four bicycle rides are starting from the park. The money raised from the pledges will go to the Leukaemia Research Fund of Great Ormond Street Hospital. Last year 2,700 cyclists took part and were sent on their way, through the dripping rain, by Glenda Jackson, the minister in charge of London's transport.

The treatment of many types of leukaemia has been one of the success stories of postwar

medicine. When I was a junior hospital doctor, it was not uncommon for small children to be admitted with leukaemia and to die within a matter of days. Now a realistic, but not always attainable goal, is a cure for all cases of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and acute myelogenous leukaemia. The babies who, 40 years earlier, would have died rapidly now have a good chance of living a normal lifespan.

There is unlikely to be any one cause of leukaemia. The fears that were expressed about living near pylons or power stations have abated, but the latest anxiety is that life near an estuary may be associated with a slightly higher than normal — but statistically significant — susceptibility to this group of diseases. Pollution in the water is cited as a possible reason.

● Leukaemia Research Fund London Bikeathon: 0181-671 5500.

HOMOEOPATHS use dogs' milk to treat, among other conditions, overactive imaginations. But for most Britons milk is derived from either a cow, goat or nursing mother. The concept of sheep's milk for human consumption may not be as unusual as dogs' milk, but we are not culturally conditioned to accept it. Medically speaking, we are making a mistake.

Ewes' milk has at least 25 per cent more protein than that from a cow, and twice as much as that from a goat. It

Milk from the ewe is good for you

also has more lactose, and is creamier, than both — all of which makes it very nutritious. Although cheese made from sheep's milk contains more fat than, say, blue cheese made from cows' milk, the amount of cholesterol in the cheese from cows, goats

and sheep is the same: 45 per cent of the fat in sheep's cheese is as a mono or polyunsaturated form, which should make the arterial system much healthier. The energy-giving value of sheep's milk is 25 per cent greater than the other two.

Sheep's milk is available anywhere in the United Kingdom, and is recommended for people with such allergies as asthma, eczema and other skin problems, or who find that dairy products upset them. Sheep's milk is also said to be good for "neurotics", so that, after all, their variative imaginations might not need homeopathic pills prepared from the milk of an obliging dog.

One group of people who could overcome their objections to sheep's milk with advantage are those prone to osteoporosis, for it may contain up to twice as much calcium as cows' milk, as well as more zinc, magnesium and phosphorus.

● The British Sheep Dairying Association: 01420 563151



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DEMOCRACY IN DANGER

The West must throw lifelines to beleaguered Montenegro

Montenegro, poor, wildy beautiful and with a proud national identity, is the last republic besides Serbia to have stayed in the shrunken Yugoslav federation. It has been miserably rewarded for a loyalty, now severely strained, that Mr Milosevic has held in contempt. The tiny republic has been progressively undermined, first by the heavy economic and human costs of Slobodan Milosevic's onslaughts in Croatia and Bosnia and the UN sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia, then by Belgrade's efforts to destabilise the democratic Government of President Milo Djukanovic, and now by the Kosovo bloodbath which, while opposing Nato airstrikes, Mr Djukanovic has courageously denounced.

This tiny republic, valiantly trying to stay neutral in this conflict, is in grave danger of being torn apart. Yugoslav forces, which have been ratcheting up pressure for weeks, have begun expelling and killing refugees along Montenegro's frontier with Kosovo. The Yugoslav Army is blocking access to Montenegro from Croatia, directly challenging the Government's authority in an area declared a demilitarised zone by the UN, and demanding full control over the police. The Government is defiant, but has reason to fear a military coup. In a country of divided loyalties, whose "Whites" have long wanted union with Serbia and whose "Greens" want independence, its ousting would lead to civil war.

Serbia has no conceivable interest in instigating this disaster. Montenegro was an independent state from the 14th century until 1918, when communist rebels backed by Serb troops and irregulars overthrew its king and declared union with Serbia. Montenegro's Slavs speak a different dialect of Serbo-Croat and until recently, their clan-based society bore little resemblance to that of the Serbian plains. But the two republics have close cultural and religious affinities; and in hard practical terms, Montenegro offers Serbia its only outlet to the Adriatic, and its only naval base. To open a second front there would be political as well as human folly; and Montenegro would be no push-over. The interior police are loyal to the President.

and although they are heavily outnumbered by the 2nd Yugoslav Army based there, many of its conscripts are Montenegrins who could turn against Belgrade.

Mr Milosevic, reckless as he has always been of Serbia's real interest, may calculate otherwise. The youthful Mr Djukanovic, a former ally who has become his most formidable critic, is not just an outspoken opponent he wants out, but a standing rebuke to Belgrade's stifling police state. Since Montenegrins voted him into office in 1997, he has promoted democracy, press freedom, economic modernisation and a tolerant, pluralistic society which respects the political and cultural rights of its large Albanian and other minorities. But it has been a difficult balancing act, and the war has made him temptingly vulnerable.

Enormous tensions are imposed by the arrival of 70,000 Kosovan refugees since the air war started. With 25,000 already there, along with 25,000 Croats and Bosnians, the population of 640,000 has been swollen by a fifth; and the country is also losing \$18-20 million a month from the war, without counting Nato bomb damage. Nato has shouldered a large part of the logistical burden of helping refugees in Albania and Macedonia; Montenegro is on its own, and needs proportionately greater financial support. But that is no longer all.

By destroying Montenegro, Mr Milosevic may think that he would not only efface a political rival; he would demonstrate that Nato was powerless to prevent the devastation of a republic that its air campaign has tried to spare and which it supports as a regional bastion of sanity and reason. On April 2, after Mr Milosevic ominously appointed a crony to command the 2nd Yugoslav Army based in Montenegro, Javier Solana warned Belgrade against unseating Mr Djukanovic, insisting that Nato had "plans to stop" a coup. Yesterday Madeleine Albright spoke only of unspecified "serious consequences". If a plan exists — and Nato's continuing reliance on air power must be cause for doubt — it should be dusted down. For if it is bluff, evidence mounts disturbingly that Mr Milosevic is preparing to call it.

ARMS AND THE BOYS

Americans face yet another school shooting tragedy

After similar incidents in Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oregon and Pennsylvania in the past few years, the latest tragedy at the Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, might be expected to shock but, sadly, not surprise Americans. Although the scenes are familiar, both the character and location of this shooting are unusual. The use of home-made bombs by teenagers, allegedly based on information obtained from the Internet, is a chilling development. Littleton is a leafy suburb of Denver, not an insular Southern town or a dysfunctional Californian enclave. In that sense, if such an outrage can happen here it could occur almost anywhere in America.

The political reaction in the United States has had a predictable, almost ritualistic, quality. President Clinton has again urged the states to redouble their efforts at "pre-emptive counselling" and asked Congress to consider further gun control measures. Congressional leaders evidently have little appetite for such legislation. The National Rifle Association (NRA), which by perverse coincidence is scheduled to hold its annual convention in Denver next week, has issued its familiar refrain that "guns don't kill people, people kill people". This is obviously true, although teenagers armed with semi-automatic rifles rather than water pistols do tend to be particularly effective at conducting massacres.

The truth, though, is that it is not only the single-minded opposition of organisations such as the NRA that prevents either the various states or Congress itself adopting gun control measures. Colorado's distinctive state constitution allows the electorate to choose to hold a referendum on almost any issue. A simple petition of citizens is

enough to initiate this process. No American state has a more permissive system of popular participation. Denver itself is a very liberal city with a record of electing anti-war activists and radical environmentalists. If really sweeping gun control laws cannot be passed here then, in a sense, they cannot be expected to make much progress anywhere in the United States at present.

The possession of personal arms has in fact become a central issue in the current session of the Colorado state legislature. This proposal, however, supported by the Republican Governor, is to render legal the carrying of concealed weapons by the vast majority of citizens. Similar measures have already been passed in a number of Southern and Western states. The Littleton slaughter may serve to stop this attempt. The fact that it had a respectable prospect of passage until yesterday is a powerful reflection of the prevailing culture in many American states. The most that can be expected is some extension of parental responsibility for the acts of armed minors.

Congress will, of course, face demands to do something. It will studiously avoid any serious constraints on gun ownership and focus instead on the supposed influence of the Internet. There will doubtless soon be proposals put forward for restricting the sort of information that can be posted on this medium. Apart from being virtually unpoliceable in practice, any such legislation would almost certainly (and correctly) be shredded by the US Supreme Court as a transparent violation of the free speech provisions of the First Amendment. The sole and unfortunate conclusion is that the Columbine High School killings are, alas, very unlikely to be the last of their kind.

IT'S A BUG'S WORLD

London Zoo weaves a wondrous Web of Life

Is it Pity's fault that crawly things give us the creeps? A translation of his *Natural History* introduced the word insect to the English in 1601. And insects, he explained in it, were just "little vermin". The scuttlers and inchers he included in this category — the caterpillars, pismires, grasshoppers and worms — may since have been sorted into more precise phyla, but still the idea lingers that any such creature is little more than a pest to be squashed. Tomorrow's opening of a Web of Life display at London Zoo should therefore be welcomed, for it celebrates not only the loveliness, intricacy and diversity of invertebrates, but also the crucial role that they play. Our entire ecosystem, it seems, is supported on the back of a "bug".

The energy-efficient show space, in itself, gives proof of invertebrate relevance. Modelled on the complex structures evolved by termites to maintain even temperatures in the hottest, most inhospitable places on Earth, the glass-sided building is chilled in summer by the geothermic cooling effects of a borehole, while the five chimneys which diffuse the stale winter warmth, mimic the ventilating architecture of a termite mound.

When construction of this building began, London Zoo's wolf pack was removed to quieter surroundings. Residents of Primrose Hill missed the untamed night howls which tinted urban dreams. But in welcoming a breeding pair of threatened maned wolves to Regent's Park as part of the Web of Life exhibit, they will be reminded that it is upon the myriad plenitude of invertebrate life that the survival of such fine predators depends. Maned wolves in the wild snack on beetles, on insectivorous rodents such as the mouse or shrew. If biodiversity is to be maintained, if such gravely endangered species as the golden headed lion tamarin or the bleeding heart dove are to be rescued, the multitudinous tiny creatures which help to support them must also be preserved.

The fibrils of the food chain may seem as imperceptible as the minuscule brine shrimp, as frangible as the brittle star, but they are as ubiquitous as the bluebottle, as long as the Mombassan train millipede, as complex as the mosaic of a postman butterfly's wing. This is what visitors will learn. They will be connected to so intricate a web of life that they will gaze twice before they decide to stamp or swat again.

مكتبة الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Differing views on decommissioning

From Mr John McPhie

Sir, How ill-served the people of Northern Ireland are by their elected representatives (leading article, April 20). They have made their wishes clear in a referendum and yet the politicians cannot deliver. Perhaps they don't really want to deliver. If they did and Northern Ireland enjoyed a peaceful, normal existence there would be no more visits to the Oval office, no media attention; how boring life would become (and how utterly blissful it would be for the rest of us not to have to listen to their never-ending, pointless, illogical, circuitous arguments).

It is time for the issue of decommissioning to be forgotten. For the IRA and for others it smacks of surrender and it will never happen. If it is done in token form (which would more than likely be the case), it will be meaningless, and, anyway, vast quantities of new weapons are readily available to any willing buyer. The whole point is whether the weapons are being used or not — and they are not.

Decommissioning is not a principle that is going to affect the future of Northern Ireland. It is easy to understand why it was originally included in the Good Friday agreement, but it is not set in stone and, for the sake of peace, it must be dropped.

It is beholden on the politicians to deliver the peace the Province craves — and soon. The price of peace has been too high for it to be lost because of the myopia, intransigence, selfishness and lack of imagination of certain Northern Ireland politicians.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MCPHIE,
Rampton Prebend,
Westgate, Southwell NG25 0JH.
April 20.

From Mr Harry Barnes, MP for North East Derbyshire (Labour)

Sir, Your leader argues that the British and Irish Governments should be willing to "park" the Good Friday agreement until the autumn. This would be what is termed a "soft landing" rather than a "crash landing".

However, there is another option canvassed eloquently by *The Irish Times* in its own leader of April 19. It notes the dangers of the Belfast agreement unravelling if it is parked, and possibly a reversion to large-scale violence — fuelled by confrontations over the marching season and Drumcree. It raises the possibility of allowing the creation of a power-sharing executive without Sinn Féin until such a time as Sinn Féin can join the peace train further down the line.

There is much merit in this alternative approach. It must be clear to most people in these islands, and to international opinion, that all major items have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved with the sole exception of decommissioning.

Given the IRA's bloody record and the dangers of vast arsenals being raised, used again or poisoning the political process, a modest gesture on decommissioning is the very least that democrats can accept for bringing Sinn Féin into the heart of government.

Let us accept the word of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness that they cannot deliver on this. But let us still allow them further time to do so, without throwing away the massive gains that the Belfast agreement represents.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY BARNES,
House of Commons.
April 20.

Bombing of Serbia

From Group Captain D. A. P. Saunders-Davies, RAF (retd)

Sir, The Armed Forces know only too well that there is no such thing as an infallible weapon nor an infallible operator. Moreover, it has been a part of doctrine for many years that, while you cannot win a war without air power, neither can you win it with air power alone.

I would lay long odds that the Chiefs of Staff briefed strongly against the Serb reaction might be. They were overruled by politicians adopting a high moral tone having never seen a shot fired in anger.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SAUNDERS-DAVIES,
Home Farm Cottage,
Ower, Hampshire SO51 5AN.

From Dr Tony McAllister

Sir, The term "surgical strikes" has been demonstrated by the recent killing of both Serbs and Albanians by Nato bombs to be the callous and inaccurate description it has always been. Nato has tried to blame these deaths on Mr Milosevic, but this would not wash. Dropping bombs kills people, and it was Nato who did the dropping.

Whatever Mr Milosevic and his troops have done, it does not justify continuing this lethal bombardment. Please let us stop the bombing and resume talks about the future of this region of Serbia.

Yours faithfully,
TONY McALLISTER,
4 Redwoods,
Bengeo, Hertford SG14 3BT
April 15.

Calling time on the coronets?

From Mr Paul N. Arthur

Sir, The recent level of correspondence on the reform of the House of Lords (letters, March 30, 31; April 6, 13, 15) shows how successful new Labour's spin operation has been. The fact is that it is not the House of Lords which needs reforming but the House of Commons. This, as Peter Riddell has observed on several occasions, could be done by strengthening the power of select committees, allowing for a much more rigorous and effective examination of the executive.

As for the Lords, there is much to say for an appointed, elected and hereditary element, together with a proportion of seats allocated by lot. In the meantime, so long as the focus of attention remains the reform of the second chamber, I shall continue to read the letters you publish with amusement.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL N. ARTHUR,
12 Braewood Gardens,
Park-Hill-Rise, Croydon CR0 5FL.
p.narthur@msn.com
April 20.

From Mr W. Dixon Smith

Sir, There can be no more appropriate name for a reformed upper chamber than "The House of Lords" and no more appropriate titles for its members than "Lords and Ladies".

The House of Lords, under such

designation, forms part of our British tradition in the truest sense of that much abused phrase; that is to say, it retains a clear and undeniable function. It is a political workshop, and its members political workers.

In spite of the determination of successive Prime Ministers to transform it into a retreat for the recipients of empty honours and for party nominees, the House of Lords has often better represented the views of the British people than has the "democratic" Commons.

Of course, if the workaday titles of "Lords and Ladies" are to be retained for elected members, then those who presently sport costume jewellery coronets will have to lay them aside.

Yours sincerely,
W. DIXON SMITH,
6 Welland Rise,
Accomb, York YO26 5HH.
April 18.

From Mr T. Pearce

Sir, Would it not be a good idea to reintroduce the University Seats as part of the elected body of a reformed second chamber?

This could give a group of independent members chosen by a well-educated electorate.

Yours faithfully,
T. PEARCE,
22 Shaftesbury Road,
Beckenham, Kent BR3 3PW.
April 20.

Devolution challenge for Labour

From Mr David Procter

Sir, I read with some incredulity your leading article today describing the Chancellor of the Exchequer as the "Defender of Britain" and referring to "perceived English resentments" over devolution. The West Lothian question is a matter of genuine and legitimate concern, not least because Labour Governments elected in the United Kingdom have only twice ever had a majority of English MPs.

In future, while the Scottish assembly looks after its own domestic affairs, the historical likelihood is that Labour Governments will actually be opposed by a majority of English MPs, but sustained by Scottish MPs, in presiding over English domestic affairs. It does not amount to an outbreak of Braveheart xenophobia to point out that this is illogical and unreasonable.

We have grown used to hearing members of the Government spinning their way out of this sort of ill-considered muddle with warm words — in this case an appeal to the English "sense of fair play". But it is disappointing to see you accepting a line that could not be further from fair play — let alone common sense.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PROCTER,
36 London Road,
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2AA.
April 16.

From Mr S. Hodson-Pressinger

Sir, Following Gordon Brown's warning Britain against a "retreat into fac-

ionalism", we read today that reunified Germany is moving its parliament back to Berlin. Surely there is a lesson to be learnt here?

Germany's constituent states, despite their differences, are not separatist. They are content to remain absorbed into a federal system.

Germans do not wish to see their country fragmenting and reverting back to a collection of small independent states. They are aware of the price paid in unification and the advantages unity has brought. Furthermore, they realise size affects their influence and power, both internationally and within the European Union.

Clearly, Scottish and Welsh separatists could learn from such German pragmatism.

Yours faithfully,
SELWYN HODSON-PRESSINGER,
4 Lyall Street,
Belgravia SW1 X8DW.
April 19.

From Mr William M. Ballantine

Sir, It is all very well for Gordon Brown to tell us all how wonderful it is to be British, but he seems to forget that part of the reason for the rise of the SNP was the language of neo-nationalism used by the Labour Party in Scotland for the past ten years.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. BALLANTINE,
47 The Quarryknoves,
Dean Road, Boness,
West Lothian EH51 0QJ.
April 16.

Millennium denial

From Mr Michael Shaw

Sir, Further to Barry Hyman's letter (April 16), what are we, who are bloody-minded enough to celebrate the millennium at the right time, going to say to those who aren't, on January 1 next? Do we wish them "Happy Exciting Number Change" or welcome them to the year that puts the 20 in 20th century?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL SHAW,
88 Underdale Road,
Shrewsbury SY2 5EE.
April 16.

Age of consent

From Mr D. J. Littleford

Sir, Whilst completely apathetic to the debate over the age of consent (letters, April 6, 10, 13, 16), I was concerned over the poll results in the Stonewall advertisement (April 13).

In response to the question "Do you believe that in Britain the age of consent should be equal for everyone or not (my italics)?" it appears that 110 per cent (yes, 66 per cent; no, 44 per cent) of the representative sample had a view. But then no wonder they were confused, as it is clearly impossible to answer the question yes or no! Lies, damned lies and statistics?

Yours faithfully,
D. J. LITTLEFORD,
29 Hill Rise,
Posters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 2RX.
April 13.

A proper pride

From Mrs Anne Barnard

Sir, Judging by his letter (April 15), Dr Ian Olson has forgotten that many of us do celebrate a great poet on St George's Day, which is also Shakespeare's birthday. Larkin indeed!

Yours faithfully,
ANNE BARNARD,
104 Salmon Street, NW9 8NJ.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Cost of repairs to listed buildings

From Mr John R. Lawrenson

Sir, VAT on church repairs (leading article, April 5; letters, April 12) is a side issue, albeit very important in the amount of money raised voluntarily, handed over with pain to the Government, and graciously returned in part via a cosy quango.

The real question concerns the ownership of churches. Since nationalisation some 465 years ago they have belonged, not, as many assume, to the Church of England, but to the State, and the sad truth is that they have suffered the same fate as nationalised industries.

It would seem both unfair and bad business to allow the Church of England to continue the myth of ownership and the practice of bad management. Better for the State to give all the churches back to those who raised the money to build them in the first place, the parishes. The burden of upkeep rests now on the declining number of elderly people on parochial church councils.

Very often the church is the only real heritage a parish possesses. Hand to the parish members the responsibility of looking after what is, after all, theirs. If they decline the offer, so be it. That church is going to fall down anyway.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. LAWRENSON,
The Old Rectory,
Great Waddingfield,
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0TL.
April 13.

From Mr David Morton

Sir, Churches are not the only organisations troubled by the cost of maintaining and repairing listed buildings. The vast majority of listed buildings are houses, notably stately homes. However, most listed houses are family-sized dwellings, and it is with our stock of domestic listed buildings that the main issue arises.

Most of the repair burden falls on individual homeowners — in many parts of the country on low incomes — for whom the VAT on maintenance is a serious financial handicap.

A maintenance backlog leads to a decline in the condition of our historic built environment. This institute therefore does not support VAT on repairs to any listed building and welcomes the current investigations by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

Possibilities of abuse are often portrayed, but a robust listing process would obviously prevent this. A maximum level of claim in any one year would actually encourage long-term maintenance.

Our illogical system allows relief from VAT for a listed building home extension which the owner can clearly afford, but not a repair which he or she may not be able to, yet which can help to preserve the fabric for future generations to enjoy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MORTON
(Convener, Design and Conservation, Historic Environment Panel),
The Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1N 4BE.
April 16.

Church 'prudery'

From the Reverend Clive L. Rawlins

Sir, Apropos the Archbishop of Westminster's comment on "society's apparent preoccupation with sex" (letter, April 13), one wonders if it is not the Church rather than society that is so smitten?

There are ten commandments and nine beatitudes — not to mention many more ethical exhortations in the New Testament — but we hear and see comparatively little exhortation on their transgression, not least against such antisocial sins as greed and pride and self-righteousness. Surely "Judge not" is the first principle of love.

Is it not time that the Church took these things more seriously and learnt to celebrate the joys of sex, recognising without embarrassment the proper attractions of a pretty face or figure, and normalised its attitudes to these without this constant knee-jerk censoring?

Anyone who has lived abroad for any length of time is positively assaulted by our obsessive prudery on returning home: "To the pure all things are pure."

Yours sincerely,
CLIVE RAWLINS,
Thistle Cottage,
Upper Bolton,
East Lothian EH41 4HW.
April 13.

Thatcher remembered

From Sir George Engle, QC

Sir, During Lady Thatcher's tenure of No 10 (Libby Purves's article, "Blue remembered thrills" April 20), when relations between her and the Civil Service were far from happy, one of the hot-air hand-drying devices in the Gents near the Cabinet Office Mess (where I used to go for lunch) carried, in Chinagraph, the words "For a personal message from the Prime Minister, press the red button."

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane, N6 5UB.
April 20.

TIM FORSTER



Forster: permanent pessimism in spite of great success

Tim Forster, OBE,
National Hunt trainer, died
yesterday aged 65. He was
born on February 27, 1934.

Tim Forster sent out three winners of the Grand National: in 1972 his own horse *Well To Do*; in 1980 the American-owned and ridden Ben Nevis; and in 1985 the 50-1 chance *Last Suspect*. He also won almost every other major steeplechase in the calendar, though the Cheltenham and Whitbread Gold Cups eluded him.

But despite all this success, Forster went through life with an air of almost permanent pessimism. How much of this was a genuine indication of his feelings and how much the cautious reaction of a man determined not to get carried away by what might happen was never easy to say. But he would grow even winners with a lugubrious countenance.

Racing was in Forster's blood, for his great uncle, Bower Ismay, had owned the disqualified 1913 Derby winner *Cragganour*, and his father Douglas had horses in training on the flat with Jack Waugh and Derrick and Henry Candy. Probably the

best of his several winners was *Light Harvest*, who won the Wokingham Stakes at Royal Ascot in 1956.

Tim Forster's almost inevitable enthusiasm for racing was kindled further during his days at Ludgrove and Eton. During his time in the Army he rode his two winners (from only five rides) under rules at Hexham in 1959.

He began training in 1962 after pupil and assistant spells with Geoffrey Brooke and Derrick Candy. Later that year he bought the yard in Letcombe Bassett in Oxfordshire where Ron Vibert had briefly trained after the death of the yard's previous incumbent, Tom Yates.

The following year he sent out his first winner, at no less a meeting than the Cheltenham Festival, where *Baulking Green* won the United Hunts' Cup, a race the horse was to take in the next two seasons as well. For all his tendency to make horrendous mistakes, *Baulking Green* was one of the star hunter chasers of his day, and he also won the Horse & Hound Cup at Stratford on three occasions.

His first Cheltenham success came in the year before his trainer's second strike at

that Festival. In 1984 *Take Plenty*, ridden by Ron Vibert, won the *Mildmay of Flete* Chase. *Take Plenty* was owned by Hugh Sumner, a stalwart supporter of jumping for many years, and his example was followed with equal relish by his son John and daughter-in-law Heather.

Sadly, Mrs Sumner died in 1971 just three days before her father-in-law, but in her will she left instructions that Forster should choose one of her horses to carry his colours. He chose *Well To Do*, who vindicated his new owner's judgment by galloping through mud and driving rain to win the 1972 Grand National, ridden by Forster's long-serving stable jockey Graham Thorne, to beat the 1970 winner *Gray Trip*.

In the same year Forster won another *Mildmay of Flete* Chase with *Mocharabuc*, whose owner Mrs "Plum" Carey Pole, was a daughter of the one-time senior steward of the Jockey Club, Lord Leverhulme. Forster won Cheltenham's Grand Annual Chase for him with *Cashab* and was also successful for him at Liverpool with *Mr Snowman*. In 1973 the success of *Dennis Adventure* in the Arkle Chase

at Cheltenham initiated a notable double for his trainer and his owner Vi Henriques, since they also won the Kim Muir Chase that year with *Hinterland*. Forster took that amateur riders' race six years later with *Redundant Punter*.

Forster's second Grand National triumph came in the atrocious conditions of 1980: the race would probably have been called off anywhere else. Of 30 who set off, 21 were standing at halfway but only four finished, as Ben Nevis, ridden by the American amateur Charlie Fenwick, won by 20 lengths at 40-1. He had been well fancied the previous year but ran very badly before being pulled up.

Last Suspect's success at 50-1 in the colours of Arkle's owner, Anne Duchess of Westminster, in 1985, was down very much to the persuasive tongue of the stable jockey Hywel Davies. He talked the Duchess into running the horse, and the moody Last Suspect finished too well for Mr Snuggles and Corbiere. Forster won the 1974 Hennessy Gold Cup and the 1976 King George VI Chase with John Sumner's Royal Marshall II. Other big races to come the stable's way during

that decade were the Manderin and Charterhouse Chases, which he won with Master Spy; the Reynoldstown, with Drumadowney, who was fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup in that novice season; and the Tingle Creek, with Lefrak City.

His star of the 1980s was *Pegwell Bay*, who became the first horse to pull off the double of the two big autumn chases at Cheltenham when he won the Mackeson Gold Cup (now the Murphys) and the AF Budge (formerly the Massey-Ferguson) and now, after several changes, the Tripleprint Gold Cup in 1988.

Early in 1994 Forster surprised the racing world by declaring that he was to move for the next season from Letcombe Bassett to a yard at Downton Hall near Ludlow. But any indication that a change of base would be followed by a lower success rate was shown to be mistaken in his very first season at the new yard, when *Dublin Flyer* won the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham and the John Hughes Chase at Liverpool.

The following season *Dublin Flyer* won the Mackeson at Cheltenham and the injury-prone but very talented Mar-

tha's Son included the Victor Chandler and Comet Chases at Ascot among his successes. In 1996-97 Martha's Son proved himself the star of the two-mile chases by taking the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham and the Mumm Melling Chase at Liverpool, and there was yet another Cheltenham victory when Maamur won the National Hunt Handicap Chase.

Tim Forster's final major success as a public trainer came in 1998 when *Wandering Light* won the National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham. Within two months of that victory Forster had decided that he was to retire at the end of that season and train some point-to-point horses at a yard nearby. His assistant Henry Daly took over at Downton.

Forster's 36 years with a licence had made him hugely popular in the steeplechasing world. His modesty and self-mocking humour as he battled against multiple sclerosis and cancer, and his innate pleasure in training brave, and often very able horses, meant that every winner he sent out was hugely popular.

Forster was appointed OBE in the last year's honours. He never married.

SIR LAURENCE KIRWAN

Sir Laurence Kirwan, KCMG,
Director and Secretary of the
Royal Geographical Society, 1947-75,
died on April 16 aged 91.
He was born on May 13, 1907.

LAURENCE KIRWAN was known to explorers, travellers and geographers all over the world for both his enthusiasm for scientific exploration and his encouragement of the young. As Director and Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, he took a large part in the selection of its presidents and the shaping of its policy.

Realising that the days of amateur exploration were ending, he introduced a new rigour in the gathering and analysis of scientific evidence of all kinds, as well as overseeing a great increase in commercial sponsorship. He succeeded in bringing together the somewhat disparate interests of explorers and academics, and under his guidance the Royal Geographical Society acted as a broker between British universities and a host of governments and university departments overseas.

Laurence Patrick Kirwan came from an old Galway family, the Kirwans of Cregg. His father, Patrick, was a Shakespearean actor and producer of some note. Larry, as he was always called, was educated at Wimbledon School and at Merton College, Oxford. His academic career at university was undistinguished — but this was due rather to his wealth of other interests than to any absence of talent. He left without a degree, but rectified the omission by taking an Oxford B.Litt. in 1935.

When he came down, his early interest in archaeology led him to contact Sir Flinders Petrie, the Professor of Egyptology at London University, who reinforced an enthusiasm which lasted a lifetime. A season in Egypt working for the British Museum led to his appointment in 1929 as assistant director of the Egyptian Government's archaeological survey of Nubia, undertaken as a preliminary to the raising of the Aswan Dam in 1935.

From 1934 to 1937, Kirwan was field director of Oxford University expeditions to the Sudan, and from 1937 to 1939 he held the Twissell Fellowship in Archaeology and Anthropology at Edinburgh University, which involved extensive fieldwork. He joined the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers in 1938, and served throughout the



Second World War, from 1942 to 1945 on the Joint Staffs, Offices of the Cabinet and Ministry of Defence.

In 1947 he accepted the post of Director and Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, with the support of the President, the traveller and diplomat Lord Rennell. Although his appointment was to prove an outstanding success, it was controversial. Some people, including the Polar veteran Sir James Wordie, were never reconciled to seeing the directorship offered to one outside the specialised coterie dominated for decades by Kirwan's predecessor, the mathematician A. R. Hinks. The staff, too, being accustomed to Hinks's paternalistic rule, were sometimes puzzled by Kirwan's more detached and lofty attitude.

These were, however, small matters compared to the sustained dedication to the society which distinguished his period in office. The expeditions that he helped to establish included an ecological inventory of an area of Kenya led by Richard Leakey and Malcolm Cole, and subsequently, under Robin Hanbury-Tenison, a survey of Muhi National Park in Malaysia, which led to recommendations for the future management of tropical forests.

Kirwan's time in the Cabinet Offices, at the heart of the British war effort, had familiarised him with the working of

government departments and with the ways of the media. The experience stood him in good stead, whether in negotiating subsidies for the RGS map room or in stimulating official and public interest in exploration.

The successful ascent of Everest in 1953 and the crossing of Antarctica in 1957-58 both owed much to Kirwan's work behind the scenes. He never forgot, however, that big projects grow out of little ones, and he gave constant and practical encouragement to student expeditions. He was always more of a historian than a geographer, a bent which showed in his enthusiasm for the cataloguing of the society's manuscripts and relics, and in his history of Polar exploration, *The White Road* in 1959.

Kirwan travelled often, maintaining his archaeological interests and publishing regularly in learned journals. Between 1958 and 1961 he acted as adviser to the Sudanese Government over the imminent flooding of Nubian antiquities by Egypt's High Dam.

His presidency of the British Institute in East Africa took him to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in the 1960s, and he visited South America in 1966 as leader of the field mission for the court of arbitration in the Argentine-Chile Frontier case, of which he was a member.

His routine was further varied by his appointment in 1968 to the advisory committee on the landscaping of trunk roads. He was appointed KCMG in 1958 and KCMG in 1972. On his retirement in 1975 the Royal Geographical Society awarded him its Founder's Medal.

Kirwan was a man of contrasting moods, and one could never be sure which would predominate. Some found him unpredictable, but most were prepared to accept the occasional unnumbered snub or disconcerting change of mind for the sake not only of acts of kindness which were equally typical, but because he was an excellent company.

He was a splendid raconteur, delighting in the ludicrous and unexpected. About his own disappointments and anxieties he was commendably reticent, and he never bore a grudge.

He was married twice. The first marriage, in 1932, to Joan Chetwynd, was dissolved. Then, in 1942, he married Stella Monck, but she died in 1977. He is survived by the daughter of his first marriage.

DOROTHEA BROOKING

Dorothea Brooking,
children's television
producer, died on March 23
aged 82. She was born on
December 7, 1916.



Dorothea Brooking rehearsing with penguin puppets for a television show in 1952

ONE of a generation of forceful, independent women who helped to shape the BBC after the war, Dorothea Brooking was the producer behind a succession of serials on children's television from the 1950s into the 1970s. Her best work included *The Railway Children* and three versions of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*.

Her adaptations were notably true to the spirit of the originals, and her casting gave breaks to several young talents. Prunella Scales took the part of Martha, the Yorkshire maid, in her second *Secret Garden*; Susan Hampshire played Katy the New England tomboy in *What Katy Did*; and Richard O'Callaghan was Little Lord Fauntleroy.

Dorothea Brooking had originally wanted to be an actress, and trained at the Old Vic in its glory days in the 1930s. She worked there in repertory — playing "tall juveniles" such as *Viola in Twelfth Night* — almost up to the outbreak of war, when she joined the Ministry of Information. In the meantime she had married the actor John Franklin, with whom she had a son.

While Franklin was away in Africa, she was sent to China, where she was attached to the British Embassy in Shanghai and found time to act in *Richard II*. She worked in the office of the press attaché, which ran a radio station, and there she began writing and producing. She was in the middle of producing a serial thriller for the station when the Japanese forced the British

to leave, and wryly reflected that she never knew how it would have ended.

When she returned to England in 1943, she joined the BBC's European Service as a continuity announcer.

After the war she remained with the corporation, and in 1950 she was recruited for the new *Children's Hour* on television. "They asked me when I was interviewed what I would like to do for children," she recalled. "I said I would like to serialise some of the best loved children's stories. 'Name two,' they said. 'So she suggested *The Railway Children* and *The Secret Garden*, which were to be her first adaptations. The part of Martha in *The Secret Garden* in 1951 was played by Billie Whitelaw."

Brooking enjoyed working with children — "they are so professional" — and took particular care to see that her

young actors understood every line they had to speak. The success of these early serials set the standard for children's weekly television, and Brooking went on to produce *Great Expectations*, *Thursday's Child*, *Little Women*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper* and several others over the next two decades.

A tough, self-possessed woman, she took the job seriously, feeling a responsibility both to the authors whose work she adapted and to her viewers, and she was concerned, in later years about the blunting of sensibilities by screen violence and horror. Occasionally, over the years, she returned to the theatre, spending short spells in repertory. She also wrote some radio plays under the pen name Darrell Wilde.

At the end of the 1960s, the BBC's provision for children

changed, and for six years Brooking moved into the schools programming. But in 1974 she returned to her old patch by remaking *The Treasure Seekers*, and the following year she dramatised *The Secret Garden* for the third time.

Having divorced in 1951, she moved in the early 1960s to live with Wilfred Sygne at Nutley in Sussex. His wife refused a divorce, however, so Brooking changed her name by deed poll to placate the village. A wedding was finally arranged for 1971, but Sygne died two weeks before it was due to take place.

Brooking formally retired from the BBC at the end of the 1970s, but continued to work there as a freelance — on children's and historical programmes — until the mid 1980s.

She is survived by her son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

WELDON - Diane Geraldine, nee Anderson, of Wick war. Peacefully at home on 20th April. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Wickham on Saturday 24th April at 12.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent for the Macmillan Nurses c/o Grimes & Goscombe Funeral Services, Chipping Wotton, Oxford, OX9 6JG.

WILKES - Desmond John L.B. TD, peacefully, April 18th aged 78, formerly Home Office, and Major, Royal Engineers (Burma Star). Funeral April 20th, St George's, Hanover 11am. Donations for St Christopher's Hospice, Synchrotron, to undersakers Lodge Bros, 108 High Street, Feltham, Middx. TW13 4EX.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BARRETT - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John H. Barrett will be held on July 22nd 1999 at St James's Church at 11am, followed by interment of his ashes. Light lunch at 12.15 pm. Donations gratefully received for Dale Church.

MARDEN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Marden will be held at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington High Street, on Tuesday 25th May at 12.30 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

WIKO - Tonjeurs to Einar.

BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHDAYS - Andrew, happy 40th birthday. All our love, Sarah and Ben, 2002.

SERVICES

PLUMP Partners National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer Home Office, and Major, Royal Engineers (Burma Star). Funeral April 20th, St George's, Hanover 11am. Donations for St Christopher's Hospice, Synchrotron, to undersakers Lodge Bros, 108 High Street, Feltham, Middx. TW13 4EX.

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Hero de Rance, pianist and songwriter, died on April 11, aged 99. She was born on July 21, 1899.

FOR more than 50 years, West End theatregoers were entertained during their intervals by a bubbly red-headed pianist. Seated in the orchestra pit, Hero de Rance would tinkle out melodies by starwits such as Noel Coward while patrons enjoyed their coffee and ice creams.

She played in every London theatre except the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and actors asked in their contracts for her to play at their shows because

she had a reputation for bringing good luck. Audiences recognising her red hair would give her a round of applause.

Named Hero by her mother after the character in *Much Ado About Nothing*, she started in variety at the age of ten and often appeared on stage with her sister. She worked as a "plunger" for other people's songs and eventually her own. Her best known composition was *You're Mine*, written in 1937 to words by Bruce Sevier and featured by the Austrian tenor Richard Tauber. It became her theme song and during the Second World War she played it to the troops.

She provided piano accompaniment for silent films before settling into her main career as a theatre pianist and composer. She continued to visit film studios, however, to sell her songs. When she started playing in theatres she was only one of several pianists in the West End, but after the death of her main rival, Clarry Ashton, in the early 1970s, she had the field to herself. She continued to play in theatres, and in the restaurant at the Ritz Hotel until about ten years ago.

Throughout her life she was determined to help fellow composers to protect their

work. She joined the Performing Right Society in 1926 and was still attending its annual general meetings in her nineties. Until recently she represented the society at the funerals of showbusiness personalities.

She was also one of the original council members of the Songwriters' Guild of Great Britain, now the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters. It was formed in 1947 by a group of composers aggrieved that their songs were not getting fair exposure on the BBC.

Her husband predeceased her and she had a daughter.

they are preserved), snipe and woodcock, of pheasant, partridge, and grouse, no objection is raised to the use of their plumage for any purpose, or to the eating of their bodies. But no specious arguments should be allowed for one day longer to stand in the way of the preservation of all birds all over the globe, except the two or three species actually proved to be harmful to the interests of man. When will it be realized that in killing birds we are playing a losing game in our terrible struggle with the insect class? The notion is ceasing to become fantastic that the undoubtedly increase of the use-fly is perhaps a corollary of the work of the plumage hunters in French West Africa, Belgian, German, and British Tropical Africa. The whole question of the reasonable preservation of fauna and flora demands the three years work of an expert commission; but meantime this Plumage Bill may do something to stay the vile and wholly inexcusable slaughter of beautiful and innocent birds.

I am your obedient servant.
H. JOHNSTON.

THE PLUMAGE BILL

To the Editor of The Times

Sir, — Those who attack the Plumage Bill on behalf of the interests of certain trades connected almost entirely with millinery and the costume of very wealthy women are surely the defenders of a hopelessly lost cause. The point seems to me to be a very simple one. What are these egret plumes, these *Birds of Paradise*, rare kingfishers, lyre birds, argus pheasant quills, and other trophies required for? Essential operations in chemistry? In medicine, in preparation of food-stuffs, and other processes vital to the welfare of humanity? No, nothing but the satisfaction of a Palaeolithic instinct in women of little education and possibly depraved minds, who with motives no better than the baboon or the magpie seek to clutch at strange and gaudy objects to stick them about their persons. You will never find a really refined and educated woman in any society wearing *Birds of Paradise* plumes, or similar spoils of an ignoble

ON THIS DAY

April 22, 1911

Exotic feathers and furs no longer adorn women's coats, but threats to more ordinary birds from other dangers still exist.

chase, in her headgear. That woman and man may desire to dress beautifully is an understandable and wholesome instinct, and that plumes and feathers play a great part in such decorations no one can deny. But all that is wanted in this respect can be supplied to the full by the domesticated ostrich, by the domestic goose, fowl, duck, pigeon, peacock, turkey, Guinea fowl, and other birds kept in aviaries or in the poultry-yard; while as regards wild birds which are preserved for food purposes, such as the various forms of wild duck (provided

Compaq's \$281m poor show

BEN ROSEN, chairman and acting chief executive of Compaq, yesterday described the computer maker's performance this year as "unacceptable", underlining the need for the boardroom bloodletting that took place on Sunday (Adam Jones writes).

First-quarter sales rose almost 66 per cent to \$9.4 billion (£5.8 billion). Analysts had been expecting \$9.9 billion before the warning. Net profits turned out to be \$281 million, or 16 cents a share, when analysts had originally hoped for 31 cents.

Compaq's warning this month caused the shares to plummet by nearly a quarter and prompted the departure of Eckhard Pfeiffer, its chief executive.

NTT anger at Byers in C&W bid battle

By CHRIS AVRES

THE British Government yesterday came under fierce attack from Japan's state-controlled telephone company, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), for interfering in the takeover battle for its smaller rival, International Digital Communications (IDC).

The criticism was made as Cable & Wireless, one of Britain's largest telephone companies, raised its estimated £63 billion (£330 million) cash bid for IDC. IDC's board has already recommended a takeover offer from NTT, but the company's shareholders have not yet accepted it.

The British Government became involved in the increasingly bitter takeover battle when

Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, wrote to the Japanese Government saying that "in our view, a successful bid by NTT would raise issues of competition and regulatory policy". This is because the Japanese Government not only owns a controlling stake in NTT, but also regulates the country's telecommunications industry.

NTT's president, Junichiro Miyazu, yesterday responded to Mr Byers's letter, saying: "I don't understand what motivated them [the British Government] to say such things. After all, it's a talk between private companies. It is about what gets decided in the market."

He refused to comment on whether NTT would raise its

original bid for IDC in response to C&W's fresh offer. Meanwhile, Britain's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) stood by its criticism of NTT. One DTI source said: "If it was about a commercial company, it would be different, but it's not, it's about state-controlled NTT."

However, leading telecoms analysts in London have given warning that C&W's aggressive negotiating tactics could irreparably damage the company's reputation in Japan — whose telecoms market is about to explode thanks to deregulation.

C&W sources yesterday responded to this criticism by arguing that the company was

being "deliberately non-aggressive". "We are paying our respect to Japanese culture," one insider said, adding that if the company had been involved in a similar situation in the US it would have issued a writ by now. "But we are not going to just roll over," the source said.

C&W hopes that its revised bid — that analysts say could be worth anything up to £76 billion — will win over IDC's founder shareholders, including Toyota, the car company, and the Itochu trading group. The offer is understood to include job security assurances for IDC's employees.

C&W yesterday said that its offer had been met with "considerable interest".

Britannia could face £1m bill as Hardern pulls out

By SUSAN EMMETT

BRITANNIA building society could face costs of up to £1 million, after Michael Hardern, the freelance butler and carpetbagger, yesterday withdrew his candidature for the board.

However, Britain's third largest building society said last night it was seeking legal advice on whether his handwritten note, delivered to a London branch, constituted a formal withdrawal. Britannia expects to make an announcement this afternoon.

If the note is legal, the building society will face huge costs rebalancing its members and setting up another general meeting within a month.

The withdrawal comes only a few days before the vote, which should have been held at the society's annual meeting in Stoke-on-Trent next Thursday.

Britannia said the move will bring the total cost of opposing Mr Hardern to £3 million. The building society has already spent £2 million urging its two million members not to vote for the butler.

Mr Hardern, who has twice stood for the board of Nationwide Building Society, sought to force the Britannia to convert to a bank.

The remaining four candidates for the board, which includes the society's chairman Dr Calum MacLeod, are said to be firm supporters of mutualism.

Mr Hardern said: "I realised that I stand no chance of winning, so decided to withdraw. The whole thing is fixed. Although I knew this when I entered, I only recently came to the conclusion that the best thing to do was to pull out. It's their problem if they now have to rebalance themselves."

Scottish unions shy away on PFI curbs

SCOTTISH unions yesterday backed away from a showdown with the Government over the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), despite fierce condemnations of the policy which involves private money in public infrastructure projects. The decision to abandon a call for a halt to PFI projects in Scotland came after Gordon Brown brokered a deal last weekend with key union leaders. He offered them more rights on employment conditions and involvement in the bidding process.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress in Glasgow backed a diluted statement from its general council, which said that while it was opposed in principle to PFI, "proper framework agreements, may offer a way forward". But Frank Healey, of the Educational Institute of Scotland, attacked the policy — on which Labour's pledge for new hospitals and schools in Scotland depends — as "a parasite on the education of our children and the health of our members".

Reed Executive ahead

SHARES of Reed Executive rose more than 10 per cent yesterday as the personnel company announced a jump in profits last year and a bullish outlook on current trading. Full-year pre-tax profits for 1998 were £16 million (£14.1 million) on turnover of £243 million (£226 million) on a small swing towards permanent recruitment. The final dividend is 1.8p per share giving a total for the year of 3.6p against 3p in 1997. The shares rose 13½p to 127p, having picked up from 72½p at the start of the year.

R-R £100m contract

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aerospace and defence group, has signed contracts worth about £100 million for the supply and support of Adour Mk 871 engines for Hawk Mk115 advanced jet trainers. The jet trainers will be used in the Nato Flight Training Canada (NFTC) programme. The contracts with British Aerospace, maker of the Hawk, and Canada's Bombardier, cover installed and spare engines for the 18-aircraft fleet starting NFTC operations next year. An engine maintenance agreement is also included in the package.

AstraZeneca sues

ASTRAZENECA, the newly merged pharmaceuticals group, is taking legal action in the US to resist the latest threat of generic competition to Losec, the Astra ulcer drug that is the world's best-selling medicine. Astra is suing Cheminor Drugs of India, and its American affiliate, Reddy Cheminor, which hope to market an unbranded version of the drug. Analysts believe the expiry of key patents will expose Losec to generic competition from late 2001.

Profits up at LSH

LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON, the property adviser, said it is benefiting from its switch away last year from acting as a conventional chartered surveyor to catering for the growing trend in outsourcing property services. In the year to January 31, the group, which now has more than 10,000 clients on its books, saw pre-tax profits rise 23 per cent to £4.7 million on turnover up 13 per cent to £47.5 million. The final dividend of 3.7p (3.4p) brings the full-year total to 5.6p (4.5p).

EXCHANGE RATES

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.58
Austria Sch.	20.19
Belgium Fr.	64.31
Canada \$	2.512
Cyprus Cyp £	0.0191
Denmark Kr.	11.85
Egypt £	5.89
Finland Mk.	5.96
France Fr.	10.41
Germany DM	3.126
Greece Dr.	251
Hong Kong \$	13.28
Iceland	130
Indonesia	17531
Ireland P.	1.2478
Israel Sh.	6.86
Italy Lit.	2110
Japan Yen	207.51
Malta	0.679
Netherlands Gld	3.630
New Zealand \$	3.08
Norway Kr.	13.12
Portugal Esc.	204.83
S. Africa Rd.	10.43
Spain Ptas	203.60
Sweden Kr.	14.29
Switzerland Fr.	2.577
Turkey Lira	638951
USA \$	1.714

Rates for small denomination banknotes as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates at close yesterday.

NET PROFITS

www.times-money.co.uk

Unions hail new Ford deal

By CARL MORTSHED

FORD is to produce a new model at its car assembly plant in Dagenham as part of a deal struck with unions which will introduce more flexible working practices and safeguard up to 30,000 jobs.

The deal will reverse a steady decline in the fortunes of the Essex plant, which is currently working a four-day week due to a slump in sales of the Fiesta on the Continent. A one-week total shutdown of Dagenham production is still scheduled to commence on Monday.

Dagenham unions hailed the agreement as a turning-point in the plant's fortunes. Steve Turner of the Transport & General Workers' Union said it was the result of a two-year trade union initiative aimed at achieving world-class status for the plant.

Ken Jackson, AUEW general secretary, said: "It demonstrates the tangible benefit of unions and management working together rather than adopting confrontational attitudes." The deal confirms that Dagenham will continue to assemble new model Fiesta



Ron Doel, union convenor, left, with his colleague Steve Riley in Dagenham yesterday

cars, expected to be launched in before 2002. In addition, Dagenham will be the single source of a new Ford model for Western Europe, believed to be a "people carrier", with plans for 150,000 units per year.

The new deal is similar to the package recently agreed between unions and Rover in Birmingham. More flexible working hours and job mobility will be introduced as well as a reduction in overtime, enabling management to gear

working hours to production levels. The new deal will increase capacity at Dagenham from 272,000 units to 300,000 and will balance Fiesta production between Dagenham and Ford's plant in Cologne, Germany.

Question:
What did the MD
say to the IT Director?

Answer:
Nice web site,
but what
does it do
for our
business?

Sometimes technology falls short of its promise. Maybe it's your first site. Or you've tried to build your brand online. Or you just can't get your sales-order application to connect with your manufacturing system. It takes a lot of experience to understand what works and what doesn't. At USWeb/CKS, we've handled over 3,000 client engagements. We create, build and deploy successful sites that combine e-commerce, targeted marketing, customer management and more. Contact us to find out how.

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Warner/Chappell
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ing Ram
ells Stag
re £4.25m

Lasma
French

Ashci
to go

unions shy
PFI curbs

Executive ahead

00m contract

Zeneca sues

is up at LSH

For a Dutch economist, Wilhelm Buiter exhibits a surprisingly deep knowledge of the works of Lewis Carroll. In his latest treatise on the single European currency, he refers readers to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and suggests that their researches should progress through the looking glass to *The Hunting of the Snark* and on to *An Agony in Eight Fits*.

If the first few months of the single currency have been far from comfortable, Professor Buiter clearly believes there is worse to come.

In fact, although an avowed believer in a federal Europe with one currency, he is indeed fearful for the future of the euro. He argues that the structure of the European Central Bank, and the way it is operating, pose a threat to its independence. And if its independence is in doubt, then there will be scope for grievance and even the prospect of some countries flouncing out of the currency.

Professor Buiter wants to see more openness and accountability for the ECB. As a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, he has emerged as something of a fan of our central bank and its chief banker. In a back-handed compliment, he suggests that if Britain were in the single currency, Europe would benefit from a "one man awkward squad" at the ECB's meetings — Eddie George.

The Bank of England's Governor might be able to prevail upon the ECB to publish the minutes of its meetings while they still have some relevance. Instead, Wim Duisenberg, the determined ECB President, has advocated a discreet silence of 16 years. Professor Buiter, who would be an avid reader of the minutes at the earliest available opportunity, sums up the Duisenberg attitude as: so long as Daddy brings home the bacon, then Mummy and the children have no business asking how he may have come by it.

But at the end of the 20th century, Daddy's behaviour immediately becomes the subject of inquiry and suspicion. The MPC actually speeded up the publication of its own minutes in order to quell the counterproductive speculation that preceded them. Sophisticated economies need to know the thinking that is going into central bank decisions. So Professor Buiter also wants to see ECB voting records published and the inflation forecasts which are influencing policy.

Yet as a member of the MPC, he will know that even the most open approach to determining monetary policy can hit prob-

lems. It would be interesting to read unabridged minutes of the meetings at which the MPC discussed the flawed earnings figures that led them to hike up interest rates unnecessarily last year. And it would be equally intriguing to hear their reaction to yesterday's new figures, replete with bonuses, which purport to show an upward trend once more, but beg more questions than they answer.

Moment of truth for euro-doubters

The Jabberwocky does not feature in a new pamphlet by Professor Sir James Ball but he does share Professor Buiter's view that the single currency could end in the Pool of Tears.

The title of his work gives the game away: *The European Single Currency: A Bad Idea*. The former principal of the London Business School who

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

went on to chair Legal & General, is now on the advisory council of New Europe, one of the burgeoning number of pressure groups arising to campaign for or against Britain's membership of the single currency.

New Europe favours a single market without benefit, or strictures, of a single currency and all that entails. Its members would have been nodding in agreement with much of what Professor Buiter, from the opposing camp, had to say. The following passage would have merited cheers of approval. "The whole European integration experiment, from the Coal and Steel Community on, has been a political wolf dressed in economic sheep's clothing."

New Europe could have chorused "Told you so". Instead, Sir James ventured to wonder aloud on the position of BP. The former chairman is now ensconced in the House of Lords, a Minister with a European mission. But Lord Simon's successor, Sir John

Browne, has turned BP into BP Amoco, a global business and one which might be expected to prefer the dollar to the euro as a currency of first choice.

The voices of many business leaders have been raised to sing the benefits that would flow to them of Britain joining the single currency but these are not immediately apparent to all those who are trading internationally. Yet while these people are prepared to voice their doubts privately, few are prepared to publicly say something which they believe would be unpopular with the Government. The battling is left to the old warhorses such as Sir Stanley Kalms, Lord Hanson, Lord Young et al.

But in the next few months, the Euro-doubters who are running British businesses are going to have to be brave and voice their qualms. Otherwise, they will lose the battle by default. The CBI, an organisation which has made clear its allegiance to the single

currency, has now lined up Sir Iain Vallance to succeed Sir Clive Thompson as President. The BT chairman is as keen on the euro as the Rentokil initial chairman he will succeed. The chances are that Adair Turner's successor as Director-General is unlikely to be a sceptic.

Panel takes a beating over CSG

The strange and complex brouhaha surrounding Corporate Services Group is in danger of making the Takeover Panel seem foolish. The panel has ruled that Michael Ashcroft must proceed with a takeover offer that he does not want to make, and which shareholders do not want even to consider until the employment company's boardroom has been turned inside out. The likelihood is that Mr Ashcroft will now make a revised offer that will inevitably fail — although in a blizzard of disinformation, some suggest Mr A remains keen on CSG. Mr Ashcroft made his offer conditional on there being no changes to CSG's board — strange given CSG's two profit warnings last month. Still, it's

his offer and the panel was fully aware of the condition. Pressure from angry shareholders threatens to remove five directors and appoint three new ones — but the panel views this turmoil as not sufficiently material to allow Mr Ashcroft to let his offer lapse.

The panel is left deciding what is important to the acquiring company. What will happen if CSG's 1998 results are qualified or show profits of less than £19 million — which, on the face of it, would trigger other conditions of the Ashcroft bid? It is clearly important that bidders should not be able to impose frivolous conditions that allow them to withdraw offers on a whim. But this case risks leaving bidders too vulnerable to the commercial judgments of the panel.

At Liberty

LIBERTY is to get a not-so-new look. The Regent Street store is cleverly consulting with National Heritage to come up with a redevelopment scheme that will be appropriate and more affordable one than the grandiose plan that eventually scuppered the Denis Cassidy regime. But will Philip Bowman be there to see it through? He took on the role of chairman before becoming finance director at Allied Domecq and the chances are that he may have his eyes on advancement. He could need his liberty.

More cuts on the way at DFS as profits slip again

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DFS, the furniture retailer, saw interim profits fall by a third after it was forced to cut prices by an average of 4 per cent in a competitive market.

Yesterday, Sir Graham Kirkham, DFS executive chairman and founder, said prices are set to come down further in the second half.

Sir Graham last year reported the first fall in DFS annual profits in its 30-year history.

Pre-tax profit in the six months to January 30 was £12 million, down from £18.2 million a year earlier. Sales rose from £130 million to £137.9 million, boosted by new store openings. Like-for-like sales, ignoring new space, were down 7.4 per cent.

The company's operating margin fell from 13.2 per cent a year earlier to 8 per cent. Earnings per share fell from 11.5p to 7.5p, but the interim dividend is being maintained at 4.4p.

Sir Graham said that the company intends to increase its proportion of own-manufactured products from 10 to 15 per cent. It plans to increase



Kirkham: "strongly placed"

the capacity of its Doncaster factory, at the cost of about £500,000.

Spending on advertising has increased as a proportion of sales to over 10 per cent, he said. New advertising campaigns are intended to be more "aspirational" and focused on younger consumers. It is also less focused on interest-free credit.

Sir Graham said that "with-in what remains a tough business environment for all furniture retailers, we believe that DFS is achieving a satisfacto-

ry performance and is continuing to gain market share."

DFS is "champing at the bit and strongly placed to take advantage of any upturn," he said.

He estimated that DFS' share of the upholstered furniture market is between 12 and 13 per cent. The company has brought in a new buying team and which has begun to introduce new ranges.

Three new stores opened during the first half, at Maidstone, Hanley (Stoke-on-Trent) and Southampton. Since the beginning of the second half, a new store has been opened at Beckton, off London's North Circular Road. Another has opened at Bolton. Sir Graham said he hopes to maintain the store opening programme at around five per year.

Stores have been refurbished at Gateshead, Bury St Edmunds and Cannock. The Preston, Darlington and Kings Lynn stores are due to be refurbished in the second half. Capital expenditure in the first half totalled £8.4 million (£7.3 million).

Tempos, page 32

NTL kicks Newcastle bid into touch

By JASON NISSE

NTL, the cable TV group, yesterday dropped its planned £160 million offer for Newcastle United, the Premier League football club.

The US-owned company said that comments in the Mo-

nopolies & Mergers Commission report blocking BSkyB's bid for Manchester United made it clear that an offer for Newcastle by NTL would be blocked.

Newcastle shares fell 5p to 73½p in reaction.

"If there was any way we

thought we could have won we would have gone ahead," said Geoffrey Hamilton-Fairley, the chief executive of Premium TV, the NTL subsidiary which would have owned Newcastle.

NTL said it has studied the MMC report and it became

clear that the competition authorities were fundamentally opposed to media companies owning football clubs.

It had agreed a deal in which it bought an initial 6.3 per cent stake from the Hall family, which controls the club, and in which it would

pay 111.7p a share for the Halls' remaining 51 per cent stake.

NTL said it will retain its holding and if the regulatory environment changed, it would renew its interest.

Tempos, page 32

Spring Ram sells Stag for £4.25m

Spring Ram Corporation, the household fittings and furniture manufacturer, is to sell its Stag Holdings furniture business to a management team for £4.25 million in cash and shares. The company will take a £12.7 million loss on the disposal. Stag was acquired by Spring Ram in 1992 for £12.4 million and was profitable in 1993 only. For the year ended January 2, 1999, Stag incurred an operating loss of £900,000, before exceptional items, on turnover of £27.9 million.

WPP expands
WPP Group, the advertising and business services company, has acquired the business of CP in the US, which provides outsourced customer care services focusing on the information technology sector, for an undisclosed sum.

Talks confirmed
Shares of Inn Business rose 6½p to 77½p as the tenanted pub group confirmed that it is in takeover talks with Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist. Analysts are betting on a bid of 80p-90p per share, valuing Inn Business at up to £72 million.

Novartis slides
Novartis, the Swiss healthcare group, is continuing to suffer sluggish sales, with its first quarter turnover falling 1 per cent to SwFr7.87 billion (£3.2 billion). Its shares fell about 3.5 per cent.

Lasmo in sale to French gas utility

By CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

GAZ DE FRANCE is expanding in the UK with the £90 million purchase of a package of southern North Sea gas assets from Lasmo and the acquisition of a gas marketing company, Volunteer Energy.

GDF Britain, a subsidiary of the French gas utility, is buying Lasmo's interest in the Calmer, Boulton Hunter, Chiswick and Cavendish fields as well as pipeline systems and exploration acreage. The fields have proven and probable reserves of 12.2 million barrels of oil equivalent and Lasmo said that it would book a profit of £14 million on the sale.

Keith Lough, of Lasmo,

said: "We have realised full value from this package of assets, which were non-core to Lasmo and are clearly worth more to a company with an interest in the European gas business."

The deal will help Gaz de France to secure supplies of gas as France has dwindling reserves of the fuel.

It is also paying £2 million for Volunteer, a deal that follows the French state-owned company's move to sell gas in Britain via the Interconnector. UK gas prices are higher than on the Continent, where prices are linked to the weak price of fuel oil, allowing Gaz de France to profit from exports to the UK.

Ashcroft forced to go on with bid

By PAUL DURMAN

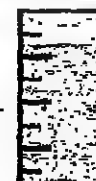
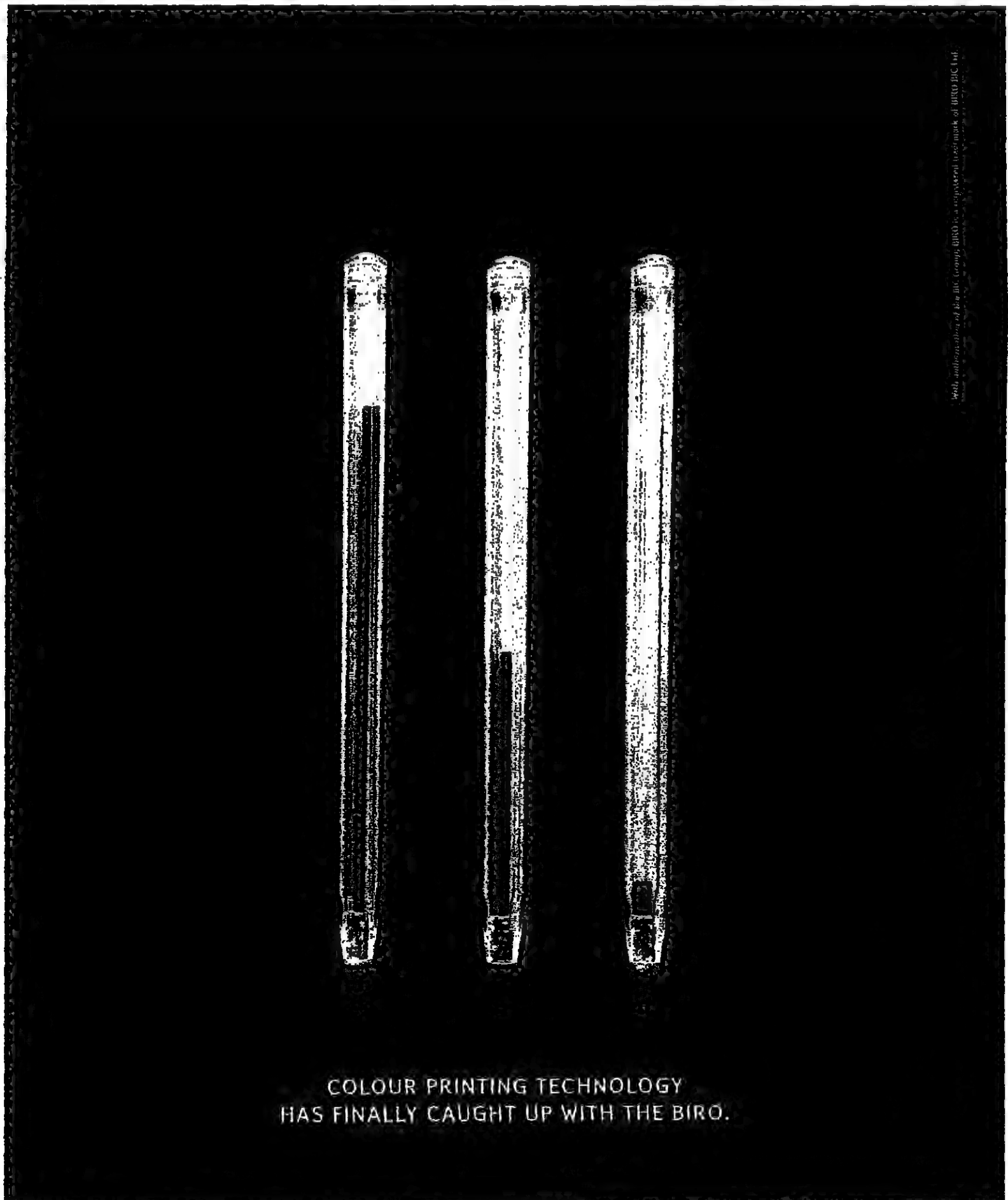
SHAREHOLDERS in Corporate Services Group, the troubled employment company at the centre of a complex takeover wrangle, are demanding that four of the group's directors should resign immediately to spare it further turmoil (See Commentary, this page).

A spokesman for shareholders owning about 60 per cent of CSG was speaking after the Takeover Panel forced Michael Ashcroft, the wealthy businessman who is treasurer to the Conservative Party, to continue with his £250 million takeover offer.

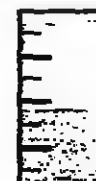
A shareholder meeting to enforce the management changes will not take place until May 4. The spokesman said: "The board should in all conscience resign forthwith because Ashcroft has to go on with his bid. We need to be advised by a new board."

Mr Ashcroft's offer was conditional on there being no changes to CSG's board, but the Panel has ruled this is not a sufficiently important issue to allow him to withdraw his bid. New Carlisle, his bid vehicle, is expected to make an offer revised in such a way that will make it almost certain to fail.

Rea Brothers, New Carlisle's adviser, has already sought fresh discussions with Investec Henderson Crosthwaite, adviser to CSG.



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Simmering trade war gets to the beef



GRAHAM SEALJEANT

comply by the WTO's May 13 deadline. Instead, the EU has just found hormones in the non-hormone beef we do allow in. The European Commission has called for a ban from June and claims that a health study will not be ready until the year end.

Expect war. But why? It is not as if trade war is a genuine part of the

WTO regime. Only America and the EU are powerful enough to mount an effective attack and only these two plus Japan can resist one. So WTO rules permitting retaliation effectively apply only to the big three, plus China when it is allowed to join. Others have little power to redress wrongs.

The same imbalance is apparent in choosing a replacement for Renato Ruggiero, head of the WTO, who is due to retire on April 30. Although members theoretically elect the director general, an instant tradition of consensus has been invented. This effectively gives a veto to the US, or to the EU if its members could agree.

If one country is to have a stranglehold on the world trade order, America is the best, even if it may not seem that way when Washington is bilaterally bullying Japan or putting South Korea in its place

via the IMF. An EU hegemony would be disastrous for free trade. But an imbalance of power is ultimately a recipe for conflict. It will grow more dangerous once China is a trade power.

After experience of the United Nations and its affiliates, America is rightly suspicious of repeating such nonsense in new bodies. If the WTO is to live up to its name, however, power and sanctions authorised under its regime should be more international.

If trade sanctions were exercised by the WTO rather than country to country, then smaller members would have a chance to protect their own interests. If fines were levied against governments, collateral damage to innocent businesses should also be avoided.

Key environmental and labour issues should also be dealt with via international WTO affiliates. That

would ease battles that mix crude arguments about child labour or wildlife with individual members' direct trade interests.

When various forums are summoned by America for the next round of trade reforms, these issues should be at the top of the agenda. The world's most important trading nation is running a \$200 billion trade deficit when economic logic suggests it should be running a current surplus.

For that reason alone, this is not the time for cool negotiations to liberalise trade further. It would not go down well, for instance, if developing nations challenged the Jones Act, which protects US coastal shipping and the associated ship-building yards.

The access of China, already almost agreed, inevitably in detailed bilateral negotiations with America, will present a huge challenge to the system. The WTO regime needs to be put on a better footing if that challenge is not to coincide with conflicts between the two most powerful blocs that could knock out the foundations of open trade.

Wall Street's legal eagles swoop on the Square Mile

Paul Armstrong
on why top commercial lawyers are crossing the Atlantic

Did you hear the one about the London lawyer who prepared a will for an elderly female client? He charged her £200, but she accidentally paid him £500. This put the lawyer in an obvious moral dilemma. Should he tell his partners about the extra fee?

London lawyers have long been the butt of jokes among their fellow professional workers, but it seems that now even their US counterparts are starting to have a chuckle at the expense of some of them.

Top-tier Wall Street firms are starting to make themselves at home in the Square Mile, where the globalisation of legal services is at its most advanced. And while they may be yet to win a substantial slice of the market, there are growing fears about the impact they could have over the next five years.

"I think what people are worried about is not what the US firms are today but what happens next," says Maurice Allen, who heads the London office of US firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges. "It is a lot harder than we thought it would be, but the clever people realise that there is a strategic battle going on and that maybe the US people will get ahead of the English in that battle."

Much of the trend is being driven by the leading investment banks, which are seeking to exploit their new-found ability to structure deals under the law of almost any country. It just happens that, in the vast majority of cases, they opt for the British or US legal systems, depending on which is the most accommodating.

This has prompted many New York firms to hang up their shingle in London in the hope of winning business that would have otherwise left the Street. There is still a handful



The cast of the television show LA Law. Their ilk are already making a mark on the City

of US firms, such as Sullivan & Cromwell, for which US legal advice still accounts for the vast bulk of the work done in their London offices. But, increasingly, US firms operating in London have lawyers working in both jurisdictions.

Members of the legal fraternity say the traffic is flowing both ways as London firms chase business from British investment banks wanting to construct deals under US law. The push to expand legal practices across the Atlantic has reached new heights with Clifford Chance, the British firm, in merger talks with Rog-

er Wells, a medium-sized New York firm. Industry observers say it is only time before the top line firms attempt transatlantic mergers. But they believe that such industry rationalisation, which will also involve mergers of London-based firms, could still be several years away.

Alan Hodgart, a director of Hodgart Consulting, a leading management adviser to European law firms, said the investment banks stumbled across the advantages of structuring deals in the jurisdiction of their choice early this decade. But he said the practice has been

adopted with increasing enthusiasm in the past five years.

"They worked out that if you are buying a business with offices in ten countries you can do the whole transaction under British or US law and just have lawyers on the ground in each place to clear up the local issues," Mr Hodgart said. "A lot of the second-tier firms realised they would lose work if they didn't do the same so there is a real market share race going on there as a consequence of these changes at the top."

He said some second-tier US legal firms that specialised

in industries such as insurance had also been lured to London in the hope of taking market share from the local practitioners. Many of these firms had found the going tough. "You can justify moving abroad for many reasons but, at the end of the day, there has to be something that adds value for the client," Mr Hodgart said.

Figures published recently by *Commercial Lawyer*, the legal industry journal, showed that there were five US law firms operating in Europe with 100 or more lawyers each. A further six had more than 50. However, while these statistics highlight the potential for US firms to put pressure on their UK competitors, they are still a long way from the 1,000 or so lawyers employed by Clifford Chance.

Stephen Fiamma, who is the partner in charge at the London office of the US firm Jones Day Reavis & Pogue, says American companies are making it increasingly clear that they want to deal with only one law firm, regardless of where an acquisition is located.

But Mr Fiamma also gave warning that the London legal market was highly competitive and did not offer US firms an easy profit boost.

"At this point in the cycle any lawyer can do well if they are reasonably competent," he says. "The real test will be in the next downturn, when we will see how many have the staying power."

Mr Fiamma said some US firms had bought their way into the UK market by offering huge pay rises to leading lawyers from London firms. But he said many partners in these firms would be unwilling to sustain the tough times if they felt the money was coming out of their pocket.

"We have to compete with English lawyers. It is not like going into a market where the local lawyers can not get their shoe laces untied. This is also a very high overhead market compared with New York."

Mr Fiamma said some US firms could be risking a repeat of the mistakes they made in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when lawyers swarmed to London in the hope of capitalising on the start-up of the Common Market.

Spam leaves nasty taste for Net users

The problem of junk e-mail — known bizarrely in the computer industry as "spam" — is escalating. This is not only an irritation to computer users, but also a potential threat to all companies conducting business on the Internet.

The subject of spam has hit the headlines twice this week. The subject first came up on Monday when Virgin Net, the Internet access provider, said that it had become the first British company to take legal action against a so-called "spammer". The second came when Graham Watson, the Liberal Democrat MEP for Somerset and North Devon, delivered a petition to the European Parliament from 24,000 Internet users fed up with receiving junk e-mails.

Spam usually involves lone businessmen or start-up companies sending millions of unsolicited e-mails in one go. Typically the e-mails contain the kind of dubious offers more commonly found in the small-ads section of *Private Eye* magazine. Most recently, e-mail users have been offered the chance to invest in fictitious Internet companies.

The problem of spam has come about partly because it is so easy to get hold of e-mail addresses. Spammers can obtain addresses either using a software package or by purchasing e-mail addresses from customer research companies.

The biggest problem with spam is that it clogs-up the computer systems used by large corporations and Internet access companies, often causing them temporarily to shut down.

So far, the only way for com-



panies to tackle the problem is to use so-called "filtration software", which can detect unsolicited e-mails and delete them before they enter their networks. However, such software rarely eliminates the problem, and spammers tend to be one step ahead of technology.

BiblioTech, another British Internet company, has also launched legal action against a spammer. The company, which is a rival to Microsoft's Hotmail and provides free e-mail addresses to 100,000 subscribers throughout Europe, was subject to a massive bulk e-mail campaign by an American businessman selling print supplies, such as ink cartridges for computer printers.

Chris Verdin, the company's finance director, argues that anyone who provides Internet access suffers as a result of junk e-mail. "The worst thing is that the recipient pays for it," he says. "Because you have to spend time online to download it."

SOFTWARE that allows companies to manage the design, manufacture and maintenance of products has been launched this week by SAP, the German software group.

CHRIS AYRES

B2 bombs

I HEAR the last rites are being read at Barclays for the unloved B2 savings account. This is because the new Barclays symbol — the eagle within a kind of badge that resembles nothing so much as one of those plastic snowstorm toys, the Vauxhall logo, or possibly a "boy in a bubble" — will be used for every part of the company, with the probable exception of the Barclays card.

B2, launched by Martin Taylor last May, will therefore join that sector of the banking graveyard haunted by the spir-

its of Vector, Orchard and Meridian — shortly to be joined, we can only hope, by the British Gas goldfish.

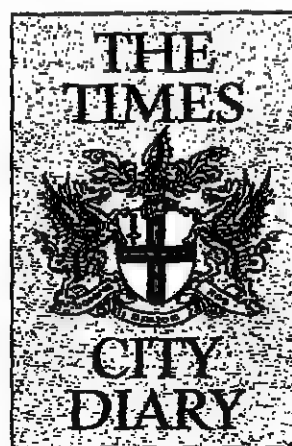
When B2 was launched, I said it wouldn't last. I was right. Mind you, I thought that Taylor would stick around.

BEFORE Bank of Scotland gets too cocky about yesterday's results, I have been contacted by a reader who says he has just received a piece of junk mail from its credit card department headed: "Win a trip to the UEFA Champions League final in Barcelona."

To go into the prize draw, all he has to do is answer one question. Which goes as follows: "Which city is the 1999 UEFA Champions League final being held in?"

Millar's tale

A RARE sighting of Andy Millar, the whistleblower who brought down British Biotech. At a presentation made at the Ernst & Young life sciences conference in Amsterdam this week, his name was flagged up on a slide as head of clinical



studies at Wilex, a German cancer therapy company.

The usually talkative Millar is not saying much, except to confirm that he is working as a consultant for Wilex and for Olaf Wilhelm, its chief executive.

In between legal skirmishes with his former employer, I assume, Millar says: "Wilex is a very interesting company and I'm flattered to be on board. It's a pity I can't get any work in this country."

Fresh start

ONLY days after the temporary monk, Jim O'Donnell, gave up the paths of the Lord to return to Mammion, I learn of another mid-life crisis in the City. Richard Broadbent, joint

head of corporate finance at Schroders, is dropping out of the nine-to-five.

Broadbent — 46 and confusingly, no relation to his former boss Adam — surprised everyone when he resigned from the bank yesterday.

"He wants to do something else with his life," Win Bischoff, Schroders' chairman, tells me. "He is going to take some time off and decide what he is going to do. He assures me he is not going to a competitor."

O'Donnell, who was at HSBC, spent just 18 months as a monk before kicking the habit and joining Salomon Smith Barney. I would not bet against Broadbent's eventual return either.

PURA FOODS, producer of food and cooking oils, yesterday slapped a writ on the mighty Shell organisation, producer of pious documents on corporate ethics, alleging trademark infringement and passing off.

The inedible oil company had launched its own Pura, a new make of diesel oil, earlier this year. The edible Pura alleges "tremendous embarrassment and confusion" which has necessitated the hiring of City solicitor Eversheds. The complaint is that its edible oil and Shell's diesel are both being sold under the same name. You mean there's a difference?

Polling boot

A RARE glimpse into the intricacies of political life from Lord, formerly Dr David, Owen, at the Reform Club for the launch of the first pamphlet from his New Europe pressure group.

The talk came around to the next election, and Owen said politicians were disinclined to trust the opinion polls. "Mrs Thatcher packed her bags in '83 and '87," he claimed. "I used to look up the vacancies in the British Medical Journal before every election."

MARTIN WALLER

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Lord Owen: scanned the situations vacant columns



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ACCOUNTANCY

Businesslike approach is vital on internal controls

Nigel Turnbull

on proposals
for the way
companies
oversee
their risks

At the start of this decade, there was little formal guidance on corporate governance beyond that contained in company law. Then came the Cadbury Report, the Rutterman guidance on internal financial control, the Greenbury Report on directors' remuneration and, most recently, the Combined Code of the Hampel Committee. This week, another set of proposals, this time on internal controls broadly defined, has landed on boardroom table. So why are they needed?

In one sense, the answer is straightforward. When the combined code was published last summer, the Institute of Chartered Accountants agreed with the Stock Exchange that it would set up a working party to develop guidance to assist listed companies to implement the new requirements on internal control.

Principle D2 of the code calls on boards to "maintain a sound system of internal control to safeguard shareholders' investment and the company's assets", while a related code provision requires companies to review that system's effectiveness at least annually.

The underlying reason, of course, for the preparation of the guidance on internal control is that, as the wording of the principle highlights, it has a vital role to play in ensuring that a business is well run. That said, it complements, and is not a substitute for, entrepreneurship. In a market economy, profits are the reward for successful risk-taking and the role of internal control is to manage risk appropriately rather than to eliminate it. The nature of a



Nigel Turnbull says reviews of controls must be firmly embedded in companies' operations

group's principal risks will depend, for example, on the areas of the world in which it trades, on the industries in which it operates and on company-specific factors.

The working party has therefore sought to develop practical and robust guidance that groups can tailor to their individual circumstances. This is far better than imposing a one-size-fits-all set of detailed rules, though we recognise that it is not the easy option and is more challenging for directors and auditors. Moreover, the working party believes that the process for reviewing the internal control system should be firmly

embedded in the group's ongoing operations and not treated as an exercise just undertaken for regulatory purposes.

The board may wish to delegate aspects of its review of effectiveness to, say, its audit committee, but it must form its own opinion on the review's overall adequacy. It is proposed that the board, or a relevant committee, should regularly review reports on control issues, probably on a cyclical basis in respect of different parts of the business. Factors to be considered include the key risks in the section of the

business being reviewed and how they have been identified, evaluated and managed, the effectiveness of the related control system and whether weaknesses found are being remedied promptly.

In addition to the regular reviews, boards will need to undertake a specific annual review exercise ahead of the annual report being approved.

This should cover, for example, changes since the last review in the nature and extent of significant risks; the group's ability to respond effectively to change; the quality of management's ongoing monitoring of internal

control; the incidence and impact of major control weaknesses and the effectiveness of the year-end financial reporting process.

In groups in which no internal audit function exists, the board will be expected to consider the need for one annually; similarly, if it does have such a function, it should review its remit, authority, resources and scope of work once a year.

Turning to disclosures, the working party is seeking to promote the provision of meaningful high-level information while avoiding voluminous detail that does not provide an insight to the company's approach to internal control.

Listed companies will be required to confirm that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the company's key risks, and that it is regularly reviewed by the board and accords with the guidance. As the guidance sets out very clearly the processes to be followed in maintaining a sound control system, this disclosure is at the same time both concise and powerful.

It is also proposed that companies should explain how the board reviewed the effectiveness of the review process and that when the board is unable to make either of these disclosures, it should explain what it is doing to rectify the situation.

To enable listed companies to make necessary changes to come into line with the new guidance, a phased implementation over the current and next accounting periods is proposed.

I would urge all boards of listed companies, their auditors and the users of their annual reports to read the proposals in full and to submit their comments by June 14.

Nigel Turnbull is chairman of the Internal Control Working Party of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and finance director of Rank Group.

Copies of the proposals are available on www.icaw.co.uk/internalcontrol.

Monet proves the case for a little dash of grey in the executive picture

IF ANYONE ever gets round to writing a history of business sponsorship of the arts, then the efforts of Ernst & Young will score highly on the success list. Their latest effort, the sponsorship of the Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy, came to an end last Sunday. It was the most popular art exhibition ever held in this country. Some 813,000 people saw it, and the Royal Academy took £3.9 million in ticket sales. And it was also a great critical, as well as popular, success.

However, for an "absolutely delighted" Ernst & Young, there were other figures to measure. More than 32,000 Ernst & Young employees and guests saw the exhibition, including more than 8,000 clients. This is the biggest success figure. To have access to such a massive "must-see" show, and for it to be an art exhibition, at which it is the most natural thing in the world to chat beforehand or as you go around the pictures, scores highly over any other type of business sponsorship.

And Ernst & Young ran it well. It was slightly eerie to find that as you left at the end of an evening viewing you could see another tranche of guests emerging from dinner in the floors above and moving down to take over your place in front of the water-lily ponds. The organisation was phenomenal.

However, for the accounting world, there was another lesson to be learnt from the exhibition. And it is rather an ironic one. The exhibition consisted entirely of Monet's work from this century. It revealed the work of a highly motivated, energetic and hard-working artist. The earliest work dated from the point at which Monet was aged 60. The last work dated from the last year of his life, when he was 86. The partnership deeds of the large accountancy firms ban anyone from remaining a partner over the age of 60. At the point where Monet was starting to produce some of his finest work, any senior accountant is being turfed out of the firm and told that productive life is over. On the new global board of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, John Connolly, the UK senior partner, is the oldest member. He is 48. Indeed, it is unusual to find any partner over the age of 55 still in anything approaching full harness in an accounting firm these days.

This trend is beginning to cause anxiety, particularly in America. For some years, it has been obvious that the average age of chairman and chief executives is about a decade higher than that of the average partner who is providing their key advice. In the UK, and particularly in America, the average age of corporate chiefs is moving upwards. The gap in both culture and experience is beginning to cause concern.



ROBERT BRUCE

Many factors are involved. This is the first generation that has had prosperity on such a scale that comparatively many people can afford to leave full-time work in their early fifties. The fashion is likely to change. The prospect of 30 years' leisure, however much you may relish the escape from phone, fax and laptops, to how many watercolours you can manage of the rolling Sussex farmland. Most people find the joys of retirement a bit of a mirage. In ten years' time, people will be craving to stay on and be productive, like Monet, until the day they drop.

There are also differences in style. The corporate world is far less pressured than that of professional service firms. Partners in law and accountancy firms work harder than their clients tend to in the corporate sector. So burn-out is a factor. So is the risk they run of working in a business where they take unlimited financial liability for anything going wrong. If you have done well, there must be an argument at 51 for saying: "Let's get out while the going is good".

Partners in audit work also face pressures with the quite recent introduction of the rule that only allows audit partners to stay in charge of a specific job for a fixed span of seven years. If you are going to have to give up your biggest client when you are within seven years of a mooted retirement date, you are likely to go at that point rather than stay.

"Once upon a time," a senior member of the profession said this week, "you could tell partners because they had grey hairs. Now they leave before they have got them." It is the old equation of knowledge and experience. For knowledge, you might prefer the doctor who is 45 and vigorously up to date. For experience, you might prefer someone of 60. Accounting firms argue differently. "At the age of 45 people have seen 20 years of the business," said one partner this week. "And they will still have seen two recessions."

However, the case for lengthening the career span is growing. In America, KPMG is looking to raise its retirement age. Firms will feel the pressure to encourage people to stay on. A proposal will go to the KPMG board in the UK on Monday about how the firm can keep the right people for the right reasons. The answer may well be to mix responsibilities later on so that partners can avoid exhaustion and maximise their value.

The irony of partners in professional firms marvelling at the productivity and imagination of an elderly Monet may not be lost after all.



The last day of Monet in the 20th Century, which took £3.9 million in ticket sales

Tale of wisdom without peer

RUMOUR has it that Colin Sharman, the indefatigable knacker of heads together in his quest to make KPMG a truly global firm, has been wondering whether there is not an easier way of making a living. As international chairman, his role has not been a bed of roses. Curmudgeonly Canadians leading him a merry dance

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

over the possibility of absconding to Arthur Andersen being but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the problems of herding international partners all into the one organisation. So it comes as no surprise that Sharman has given some thought to imparting his business wisdom in a wider forum. It is said that he fancies a life

peage so that the nation can hear his thoughts more clearly from the House of Lords. Step forward the hopeful Lord Sharman of Telford Magna.

Serious stuff
AT LAST. The news we have been waiting for. The Accounting Standards Board (ASB), and its sister bodies, the Finan-

cial Reporting Council and the Financial Reporting Review Panel, have launched their websites. But they can only be described as disappointments. They are clear, fast and packed with information. But where is the fun? Why is there no league scoreboard showing how the favoured football club of the ASB chairman, Sir Dav-

id Tweedie, the penniless but entertaining Falkirk, is out-gunning the financially challenged cloggers of Patrick Thistle, the fancy of Ron Paterson of Ernst & Young. Tweedie's deadly technical oppo? Come to that, why is there not a page of Tweedie's famous jokes? It is all very well having an excellent technical summary of something such as FRS13, but accountants cannot live by bread alone.

Flying high

IT WAS a triumph for John Connolly at the great Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu global jamboree in London last week. Not only was he confirmed as new Deloitte & Touche UK senior partner and chief executive, but he was also made global managing partner for the assurance, accounting and advisory practices of the worldwide firm. That means he is in command of more than 60 per cent of the firm's international fees. Not bad for the Mancunian high-flyer known universally as "The Fat Controller" in his North Country days.

ROBERT BRUCE

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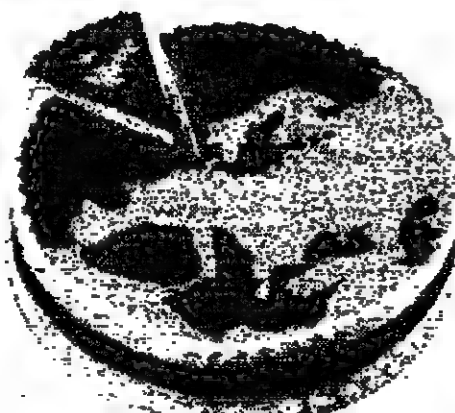
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1.38	0.83
1.00	0.83
0.14	1.79
1.00	1.79
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1.60	0.20
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	5.60
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0.38	0.33

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1.21	1.26
0.88	1.25
1.43	3.28
1.79	3.28
0.88	0.20
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1.48	1.90
3.75	0.70

1.58	2.91
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0.11	1.02

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...	.
- 0.13	1.30

0.02	1.0
0.30	1.6
0.51	3.9
0.02	3.9

Annual Return)
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Ted Hughes's
Tales from Ovid
in Stratford
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THE TIMES ARTS

MUSICALS
Backstage
antics in the
boyband zone
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NEW MOVIES: Depraved and disturbing it may be, but *8mm* holds a curious fascination for James Christopher

Bold Nic among the real devils

At once disconcerting and thoroughly entertaining, *8mm* tacksles the darkest area of film: the snuff movie, the killing of a human being for pornographic entertainment. Such depravity may only exist in our imaginations. But that's precisely why this film provokes such strong feelings. Critics have been fulminating about bad taste and moral bankruptcy since Joel Schumacher's film opened in America last month. But Schumacher's only crime is to take this primal depravity and process it in exactly the same way that Hollywood has been processing its atrocities for decades — by encasing them in good old-fashioned thrillers.

It would be hard to invent a more moral private investigator than Nicolas Cage's well-spoken Tom Wells. Cage is sharp, scrupulously polite and he visits clients in a suit and tie. He has manicured nails, a loyal wife, a young daughter and a steady income. He couldn't be more boringly normal. It's the most unassuming role Cage has ever played, and he is utterly magnetic in it.

Summoned to a grand Pennsylvania mansion by the widow of a recently deceased tycoon, Cage is handed a reel of 8mm film in which a half-naked, terrified teenage girl is shown apparently being murdered by a man wearing a black leather mask. It's not Cage's usual beat but, sensitive to old money, he sets off to find out if the film is for real, and whether the girl, named Mary, is still alive.

On the surface, it's business as usual. Reputations have to be protected, discretions guaranteed and fat fees forthcoming. Peace of mind is what's at stake. But as Cage penetrates the neon underworld of the Los Angeles sex trade, his own peace of mind crumbles. The

8mm
 Odeon Leicester Square
 18, 123 mins
Nicolas Cage in thriller about snuff movies

Besieged
 Curzon Mayfair
 PG, 92 mins
Sumptuous romance

Message in a Bottle
 Warner Village
 West End
 12, 133 mins
Corked romance with Kevin Costner

Side Streets
 Plaza
 15, 131 mins
Depressing trawl through NY's inwards

The Brycecream Boys
 ABC Panton Street
 15, 107 mins
Corny Irish war movie

Out of the Present
 ABC Piccadilly
 U, 96 mins
Space documentary

Dance With Me
 Virgin Trocadero
 PG, 126 mins
Cuban toe-tapper

Misadventures of Margaret
 ABC Shaftesbury Ave
 15, 92 mins
Fine cast commits adultery

evidence leads him on a Dante-esque quest into a dehumanising hell of pornographic dungeons. His guide is Joaquín Phoenix's leather-trousered shop assistant. With his Puckish face and endless drooliness, Phoenix provides a blast of di-



Straitlaced private eye Nicolas Cage gets a guided tour to the seamier side of life from Joaquin Phoenix in the frequently gripping thriller, *8mm*

vine comedy. He reads Truman Capote novels behind mucky magazines and cheekily tortures Cage about how porn messes with your head. Cage's features duly droop; phone calls to his wife grow increasingly strained.

But, having led us so wittily into a heart of darkness, Schumacher's film then becomes intoxicated by sensation, lurching like a drunk from one dank warehouse to another. A cast of deliciously sleazy villains (James Gollini, Peter

Stormare and Chris Bauer) — pornographers all, with perverted minds, deranged egos and a wicked collection of evil-looking toys — pops up like old cartoons from the Batman serials. Schumacher recently murdered. The playful metaphors become harum.

The moment Cage drops his distance to become a Hamlet-style vigilante is the moment the film's credibility starts imploding. His motives make crude sense, but a gripping moral thriller gives way to an action movie. The devious plot, too, throttles the deviant issues raised by the serial killer writer, Andrew Kevin Walker (who was responsible for *Seven*). That said, the flashy suspense never lets up. I'm probably on my own here, but I rather enjoyed it, warts and well, more warts.

Bernardo Bertolucci is no stranger to controversy, but his latest film, *Besieged*, is simply a gem. Taken from a short story by James Lasdun, the film charts the infatuation of a reclusive English pianist (David Thewlis) with his bewitching African cleaner (Thandie Newton). Newton, an impoverished medical student, earns her keep by scrubbing Thewlis's dilapidated palazzo in Rome. With his lopsided smile, huge nose and silly waggle of the head, Thewlis is the most nerdy romantic. Tight-lipped, middle-aged and lonely with it.

The first half hour is virtually wordless, but it's supremely eloquent. Newton maintains a formal distance; intensely vulnerable, effortlessly exotic. Her nightmare flashbacks to Africa reveal a husband who has been incarcerated as a political prisoner. An angry outburst on the marble spiral stairs that link, yet separate, Thewlis and Newton, results in the most subtle of blackmail. To prove his love, Thewlis quietly sells all he possesses to ransom her husband. It's the most quixotic of gestures, the cinema's epitome of exquisite and emblematic as you want it to be. Bertolucci has entered his vintage years. Don't miss out.

Milkmen from Land's End to John O'Grada will rue the day Luis Mandoki's *Message in a Bottle* was released in Britain. When Robin Wright

Penn's nosy journalist discovers said bottle washed up on the beach, she uncorks a tear-jerking romance that sweeps her into the hairy arms of Kevin Costner's brooding boat-builder, Garret Blake. This is a low-salt, high-spend love story, rather more enamoured of the Maine coastline than it is of its stars.

Costner's widowed sceptic and Penn's supernaturally preserved journalist shift around each other like a couple of gawky adolescents. He is Heathcliffe in all but name; she is rather more successful as a hot water bottle than a therapist. Lost? Marooned more like. The best that can be said is that the story boils along like the bottle, clunking into Paul Newman's recovering alcoholic who fiddles with boat engines and cuts up rough in the local diner. Costner makes smalltalk as enjoyable as breaking boulders.

Terence Ryan's *The Brycecream Boys* is the most unbelievable piece of baloney. Here, under the twinkling eye of Gabriel Byrne's camp commander and the ludicrous

sowd of Joe McGarr's camp bastard, spilling Allied troops and charmed German soldiers are interned together to underline Ireland's strict neutrality during the Second World War. Although separated by a barbed wire fence, the enemies enjoy the same privileges: day passes to the local races, shindigs in the local pub and for two of them — Bill Campbell's idealistic Canadian fighter pilot and Angus MacFadyen's plump, scar-faced German ace — a fight for the hand of Jean Butler's Riverdance farm-lass.

With mad ambition the film sets itself up as a tragic romance. The reality is *Dad's Army*, *The Great Escape* and the *Carry On* films pinned together with cod-Nazi accents, dusty stereotypes and clichés that make your toes curl in delighted disbelief. It's so awful it's almost magnificent.

Tony Gerber's *Side Streets* spends 24 hours exploring the crashed dreams of losers in New York's ethnic melting pot and, boy, does it dribble. Art Malik's Indian taxi driver never gets paid by any of his fares. His tiny house has been taken over by his enormously fat brother, an ageing Bolly-

wood idol (Shashi Kapoor). His harassed wife is a bowl of peanuts away from murdering the glamorous has-been. Valeria Golino's dress designer has no customers, and an eviction order. David Vadim's Romanian butcher boy gets locked in a freezer. John Ortiz's seedy Puerto Rican is mugged trying to impress his new teenage lover.

Gerber grimly stitches these non-stories into an excuse to avoid New York's back streets altogether. The acting is stringently unsympathetic, the film even more so. Ugh.

What kind of people aspire to manning a tin can in space designed by *Blue Peter* presenters? The answer can be found in Andrei Ujica's ultimate fly-on-the-wall documentary, *Out of the Present*. In 1991-92 two brave and uncomplicated Russian cosmonauts, Anatoli Arzbarsky and Sergei Krikalyov, spent months rattling around the Mir space station. On the one hand it's the Russian equivalent of *The Right Stuff*. On the other it's a serious account of endurance.

The calculated thrill is that the men who edited this video diary make the men who lived it entirely blind to the ironies of their mission. The astronauts are willing, childish participants. They listen to pop music, eat disgusting bags of food and frolic in a vacuum as if they were in a youth hostel for eggheads. The message is simple: space is utterly meaningless without the Earth, and what goes on on Earth is utterly meaningless in space.

Dance With Me is a kitsch feast for *Come Dancing* enthusiasts with a little Latin hearnache on the side. A chunky Cuban hunk, Rafael (the Latin American music star, Chayanne), washes mirrors in a dilapidated Texas dance studio for a motley band of hoofers: foxy Vanessa L. Williams, miscast Joan Plowright, raddled Kris Kristofferson (need we go on?). With a grin as wide as Havana, Chayanne sows Cuban magic in the hearts of these misfits. The sentiment is as choreographed as the salsa. It goes on for ever.

Brian Skeet's movie, *Misadventures of Margaret*, throws a classy young cast into the most dismal sex-obsessed pot-boiler. An impossibly chic couple, Parker Posey and Jeremy Northam, flirt with adultery after seven years of married bliss. She takes off to France to write a bodice-ripping sex fantasy. He quotes Walt Whitman to a busy student groupie in New York. Their friends, Elizabeth McGovern and Brooke Shields, polish their epithets on their crumbling marriage. It desperately aspires to be grown-up but the veneer of sophistication extends only to Posey's fabulous eyebrows.

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Ready for your revival, Ms Bisset?

What becomes a legend most? In the case of Jacqueline Bisset, not being too proud to audition. Martyn Palmer reports

When Jacqueline Bisset sensed that the director Marshall Herskovitz couldn't decide whether to give her a key role in his period drama *The Honest Courtesan*, she decided to convince him. At 54, Bisset's track record — *The Deep*, *The Thief Who Came to Dinner*, *Bullitt*, *Rich and Famous* and François Truffaut's *Day for Night* among more than 50 films — should speak for itself. But the British actress, who has lived in California since the late 1960s, is a realist when confronted with the Hollywood system she knows so well.

"They were thinking of me for *The Honest Courtesan* and I had a meeting with the director and I could tell they were looking at other people, too," says Bisset. "I sensed that they were looking for a bigger name, someone who is more current, someone from a hot TV series, whatever. And I was getting very frustrated by the whole thing."

"So I said to myself: I'm perfectly good for this role and I know that I can be really great in this part. I can't think of anyone else who could do it better. So I put together a piece of film to show him. I did a monologue, related to the character; I dressed myself up so I wouldn't look contemporary. I put together something that looked period-ish; I put a piece of string around my forehead, I found a blouse and a corset and I played dress-up. I sent him the film and it worked. I got the part."

Bisset may be a realist but she forces herself to be an optimist, too. While other actresses of a certain age bemoan their lot and rightly point out that decent roles for older women are as rare as snowflakes in Santa Monica, she has her own, very positive, mantra.

"There is all this talk that beyond a certain age it is difficult for actresses, but I refuse to accept that. I mean, I just hate that phrase 'a certain age' and it annoys me when in every interview you read everyone is whining about this, that and the other."

"I make myself be positive. I say 'OK, you are bloody lucky to be working. Why are you working? Because you have a good attitude. Get rid of the rubbish and remember there are thousands of people who would love to have this job and get on and make the best of it. It will be terrific. And it usually is.'"

In recent years, after a lean spell during her forties, things have cer-

tainly been terrific for Bisset's career. Since making *The Honest Courtesan* almost two years ago — its release was delayed because of distribution problems — she has completed six more films, including two for TV, back to back.

"I've worked in France, Australia and Czechoslovakia, as well as the States. It's been very positive. I have energy and I want to work with the people I find interesting and on worthwhile projects. I don't need to do enormous parts, I was never attracted to them, but I do like to work."

In *The Honest Courtesan* she was able to find an outlet for some of that hard-edged realism in the role of Paola Franco, a mother who knows that her beautiful daughter Veronica (Catherine McCormack) will never be allowed to marry the handsome young aristocrat (Rufus Sewell) she has fallen in love with because of her lowly social standing.

Instead, she reveals to Veronica that she was once a courtesan, a beautiful escort who provided sexual favours for the richest and most powerful men in 16th-century Venice, and she encourages her daughter to follow the same path. Bisset was intrigued by the subject-matter — a mother basically pumping for her daughter — and feels that Paola is trying to help her child in the most practical way.

"I like period pieces and I hadn't done anything from this time before," she says. "And the subject did fascinate me, the whole business of the courtesans and the relationship between the mother and daughter."

"I believe that it's important that people who have children should pass on what they know and that's what Paola is doing. Paola knows that her daughter has to face reality. She can become a nun or she can become a courtesan."

Bisset believes it is a theme that is still relevant today. Born into an upper middle-class family in rural Berkshire, Bisset remembers that her own parents — her mother was a lawyer before marrying her late

father, a GP — were not from a generation about to pass on tips about sex and men, although they did give her many positive values to take into the world.

"I was given a great deal by my family in terms of education but I wasn't given anything practical like this. God, it would have been amazing to have known stuff about men instead of struggling and not having a clue and frequently feeling racked with guilt about things. Personally, I was in between two very different generations: my parents came from a generation where discipline was prevalent and then I was growing up in the Sixties which was the exact opposite."

"And I feel that everything that I was taught at school is now irrelevant: pounds, shillings and pence, miles and yards, things like that, have all gone. What remains strong in me is what my parents taught me: my manners, my sense of the world through them, through reading the books around the house, rather than anything I learnt in a history lesson."

After leaving school, Bisset worked, briefly, as a model and then won a small role in *The Knack* directed by Richard Lester, a knock-about comedy set in swinging Sixties London. She was spotted by Roman Polanski who cast her in his black comedy *Cul de Sac* and, in the same year, she made *Day for Night* with Truffaut. Soon Hollywood was beckoning.

Once named as the most beautiful woman in the world, Bisset is still striking. There are a few lines around those deep, sea-green eyes, but her body is in peak condition thanks to a disciplined routine of diet and exercise and, she says, that positive outlook on life.

"I think I do have a healthy attitude. I know when I don't work I sometimes get morbid but I think most actors are like that. But what I'm happy about is that I'm not freaking out about getting older."

"I mean I come to stay at a nice

hotel and I see the strawberry jam, the whipped cream and the scones, or whatever, and I can't resist — and I don't want to resist — but I know that I will have to pay. But I get on that damned treadmill and I sweat and then I feel like taking on the world. I do that five times a week and it gives me that bit of an edge and, occasionally, allows me to eat some of the things I wouldn't be able to eat if I didn't do it."

She has never married but there have been several well-publicised love affairs, notably with the Russian baller dancer Alexander Godunov, who died following an alcoholic binge shortly after they split up. For the past five years she has been living with Emin Boztepe, a Turkish-born martial arts expert.

She arrived in Hollywood at the age of 23 and was planning to stay for just three weeks. Although she makes frequent trips back to London to see her mother, she has lived in California ever since. "I had no intention of staying," she says. "I was going to be there for three weeks and then come home. Then I fell in love with someone and that was it. And, of course, there were things that I really liked about being there: the light, for instance, gave me a great sense of energy after growing up in a dark house in cold and rainy England. And I wanted to move away from the traditional. I wanted to stop being an introvert."

At that time, cinema was entering a highly creative period. The new breed of directors — Coppola, Lucas, Polanski, Scorsese — were breaking through. "I didn't know anything about them," she laughs. "I didn't know a thing about anybody. I was busy learning how to be a woman. But it was a good time for me. When you leave a place like London and go to a place like California was then, not nearly so sophisticated, you have to work much harder on yourself."

"But if you have a lively mind you have to do it yourself. Whereas if you stay in a place like London, where it's all there, you could turn into a sponge. You could just become one of those women who just go to good restaurants, swan around and go to parties and wake up having lost your looks and not knowing a damn thing. I never wanted that..."

● *The Honest Courtesan* opens in Britain on April 30



Jacqueline Bisset: "What I am most happy about is that I'm not freaking out about getting older"

Heading for Hollywood



From Tufnell Park to LA: composer Simon Boswell

Next month sees the opening of yet another Shakespeare movie, this time getting the full Hollywood treatment with Michelle Pfeiffer and Kevin Kline. But the music for *Midsummer Night's Dream* will be anything but American: the composer is an Englishman who has become one of the most sought-after composers in cinema.

Simon Boswell's credits include *Shallow Grave* and *This Year's Love* and he has just started his next major project, co-writing the score with Elton John on *Women Talking Dirty*, the first film emerging from the rock star's movie company, Rocket Pictures. John called Boswell at his studio in Tufnell Park asking him to fly

Composer
Simon Boswell is making his name in movies, says Paul Nathanson

out to Los Angeles to help to create something "modern and radical" for the drama starring Helena Bonham Carter. Tim Roth and Ewan McGregor have both chosen Boswell, who also wrote the music for the BBC drama *The Lakes* for which he was nominated for a BAFTA, to write the music for their first movies as directors — *The War Zone* and *Tube*

Tales, due later this year.

Michael Hoffman, *Midsummer's* director, asked for something "with wit and beauty and mystery and magic and yearning and strangeness and romance and intelligence and sophistication and simplicity and sensibility and humour". Boswell obliged by translating this into medieval music and Persian rhythms played on ancient Roman instruments.

Roth's remit was completely different for his raw study of incest: *The War Zone's* music was cut back to the minimum. "We were determined not to sensationalise as we wanted to avoid being sentimental and leading people's emotions," says Boswell. "It was about repressing emotion rather than amplifying it."

Boswell's initiation into movie music was bizarre. While in Rome playing in a rock band in the mid-1980s, he met the art house horror film director Dario Argento at a party. Argento had seen him perform and asked him to do the music for *Creepers*, which he was then shooting. In the studio the next day Boswell was horrified to find that the scene he was given to score depicted a decapitation. He composed the musical equivalent of nails scratching a blackboard — violin harmonics accompanied by a plectrum scraping down the bass string of an electric guitar. The director declared the music "beautiful".

Boswell, a friendly 45-year-old, is neither a movie buff nor did he train as a composer. In fact he read English at Cambridge, which he feels was more useful to his present job. "Much of the work is about understanding scripts and the undercurrents, symbolism and imagery," he says. "You need to understand what the director is suggesting and it's all about communication and interpretation. You can nursemaid people through a film thematically. For example, watch a horror movie without music and it's not frightening, though it may be gruesome. But add the music and you add tension."

"Today film music has reached a very bad point where so much underlines everything and treats the audience like idiots. If you notice the music in a film the composer isn't doing his job."

VELVET GOLDMINE

Film Four/VCI, 15, 1998

WITH Seventies British glam-rock as the subject, you expect exciting if bloated music, androgynous caperings, and visual dazzlements galore. American indie director Todd Haynes gives us all this, though the needlessly complicated script makes it hard to get pulled in emotionally. Jonathan Rhys Meyers plays the central figure, a Bowie-esque performer called Brian Slade whose career shrinks to vanishing point. But it's Ewan McGregor, as an audacious American rock star nearly obliterated by drugs, who performs with enough force to break through the frenzy. Toni Collette also impresses as Slade's wife. A rental release.

MARY, MUNGO AND MIDGE

Kult Kids, U, 1999

A NEW video label devoted to cult children's TV from the day before yesterday gets off to an eye-popping, joyful start with three 15-minute adventures from the short-lived animation series drawn by John Ryan, creator of *Captain Pugwash*. Mary is human, Mungo's her dog, and Midge is a mouse. They live on a tower block's eighth floor in a world that now looks as bright and Pop-Arty as a Patrick Caulfield painting. Great fun.

ODIPUS REX

Tartan, 15, 1997

NOT among the most persuasive films of its director Pier Paolo Pasolini, though his forthright, visceral approach to Sophocles' tragedy brings assorted pleasures and joys. The bulk is strikingly filmed against the Moroccan desert, with Franco Citti groping towards his destiny, hands over his eyes. A modern epilogue unfolds in Bologna. As usual Pasolini tries a difficult balancing act, juggling ancient myth with modern relevance. Silvano Manganaro's forceful contribution as Jocasta helps.

A PERFECT MURDER

Warner, 15, 1998

YOU can rent this remake of *Dial M for Murder* on video, or buy or rent on DVD. The latter format is preferable, partly because the extra features (two audio commentaries; an alternate ending) help to turn an otherwise mundane affair into something mildly interesting. Michael Douglas is the commodities trader who invites his wife's bohemian lover (Viggo Mortensen) to execute the

Glam acting

NEW RELEASES ON VIDEO

perfect murder. Gwyneth Paltrow swans around as the wife in peril. Alas, none of the characters engages our sympathies, although the technicians' commentary is interesting.

THANK GOD HE MET LIZZIE

Fox Pathé, 12, 1997

YOU'D have thought Cate Blanchett's presence in this thin but likeable Australian

comedy would have pushed it out into the cinemas here. Instead, it stays on video. The star of *Elizabeth* plays Lizzie (who else?); and the general celebrations on her chic wedding day get shaken up by the groom's worrying memories of an earlier, jollier relationship with working-class Jenny (Frances O'Connor). A rental release.

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RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

LONDON

SLEEP WITH ME Penny Downie, Jonathan Hyde and Adrian Lums are in Heidi Kureishi's intriguing, sedate, exposing the chaotic lives of a group of friends. Anthony Page directs. Cottesloe (0171-452 3000). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertory. (5)

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA The acclaimed Schumann specialist Christian Thielemann leads the PO for the second time this season. Top of the evening's programme is Schumann's enigmatic *Konzertstück* followed by Brahms's *Symphony No 4* and Mozart's *Violin Concerto No 3*. KCB, with Christopher Gell as soloist. Festival Hall (0171-269 4542). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

THE CUCKOO AND THE NIGHTINGALE Another Ned faces interrogation, the time Rudolf Hess is captured by his SS guards in Don Hood's two-hander. New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

SONGS GALORE Features only for the record in which the album-entitled Danish soprano Inger Dam-Jensen gives her first solo performance here. A radiant programme includes songs by Schubert, Grieg, Nielsen and Strauss. The excellent Roger Vignoles accompanies on the piano. Wigmore Hall (0171-265 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

ELSEWHERE

COVENTRY In Alex Jones's new comedy Phil and Jill and Jill and Phil are unappreciated wife and husband are changed by a magic potion. Belgrade (01203 360055). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only (5) Some seats available (5) Seats at all prices

MAMMA MIA! Enjoyable musical tells a tale of three fathers of a bride, to assure a happy wedding. A riotous of songs from the 1970s. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400). (5)

ESCAPE FROM PTERADACTYL ISLAND Award-winning American musical based on the genre of early sci-fi novels, with new songs from Michael Jeffrey. Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800). (5)

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER Sheila Gish plays the voracious mother and Rachel Weiss the brainiac daughter in the famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sam Mendes directs. Comedy Theatre (0171-369 1733). (5)

MAKING NOISE QUIETLY Dominic Dromppole's Oxford Stage Co. opens a London season with Robert Holman's story of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war. Eldon Theatre (0171-369 1733). (5)



Christian Thielemann conducts at the RFH

EDINBURGH Eminent conductor of period music Frans Bruggen takes the baton with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus in this performance of Bach's glorious Mass in B minor. A starry line-up of soloists includes Emma Kirkby, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, alto, James Odey, tenor and Neal Davies, bass. St Mary's Cathedral (0131-658 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm. (5)

WATFORD Kathryn Harrison and Mary Cullenham in Eileen Atkins's much-admired *Woe and Glory*, based on the letters between V. S. Pritchard and W. Woolf. Marle Alden directs. Palace (01838 226671). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. (5)

So the world is in some sense ruled by reason? That was what Pentheus thought, and Pentheus was wrong, not only about others, but about himself. As Ovid recorded in about AD10 and Ted Hughes repeated with lyrical savagery in 1997, Pentheus was half-mad with vindictive emotion. "Something insane behind his eyes tore off its straitjacket", and, raging at Bacchus and his worshippers, he stormed up Mount Cithaeron, where his head was torn off by his mother. That is one of ten stories Tim Supple and Simon Reade have extracted

THEATRE

Edinburgh Eminent conductor of period music Frans Bruggen takes the baton with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus in this performance of Bach's glorious Mass in B minor. A starry line-up of soloists includes Emma Kirkby, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, alto, James Odey, tenor and Neal Davies, bass. St Mary's Cathedral (0131-658 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm. (5)

from Hughes's slimmed-down version of the 250 tales in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and it is by no means their most daunting illustration of the intensity of human passion. That accolade goes to the tale of Tereus, whose desire for his sister-in-law Philomela was so overpowering that he imprisoned and raped her and cut out her tongue, assuming this would ensure her silence. How mistaken he was. To tiny, queasy moans from the Swan audience, Mark Bonnar's swaying Tereus ends up munching a yellow ragout made out of the innards of his son, killed by a wife so consumed with revenge that "good and evil, right and wrong, forgot their differences".

I cannot imagine anyone exiting this millennium in an especially smug mood, but if anyone is, Supple's work might give him or her a salutary churning. He is a director with a huge interest in the collective unconscious, and especially its more uncomfortable aspects. But his *Grimm Tales* and *More Grimm Tales*, though they included their quota of oven-baked witches and ugly sisters depicted by birds, can scarcely compete with the *Metamorphoses* when it comes to imaginative scope and



Ancient Romans, modern morals: Fergus O'Donnell (Bacchus, centre) and Antony Byrne (Midas, bottom right) in Tim Supple's fine adaptation

metaphysical size. If your own or someone else's desire does not destroy you, some god is all too likely to punish your frailties by transforming you into a spider or some temple steps. Supple's other knack is for bringing old stories vividly to life by the sparest means. The props he uses on a near-barren Swan stage are streamers, scarves, rags to suggest Pentheus's ripped-out arms, a rope to indicate the bounds of Narcissus's pool,

rough binding-cloths for the bark that encloses Sirine Saba's distraught Myrrha, who is turned into a tree after letting herself be overwhelmed by her lust for her father; but it is enough. The ten-person RSC cast is not as physically adroit and inventive as its *Grimm* counterparts, but it brings an exhilarating energy to the task of reminding us of our mythic heritage.

And what a heritage! Doubtless

Supple and Reade could have picked their key tales differently — where are the Creation legends? — but they still give us a satisfying variety. Part One, in which Sam Dastor's fine, grave Tiresias and Fergus O'Donnell's indolently voluptuous Bacchus are the dominant figures, brings onstage Echo and Pentheus, Arachne and poor, pulverised Semele. Part Two has its relaxed moments, notably when Antony Byrne's Midas is de-

veloping his gold-phobia or earning his asses' ears, but these are more than balanced by Tereus and Myrrha and even Salmacis, the stalker-nymph whose obsession with Her-maphroditus ends up by fusing him and her into a swirl of off-white muslin and naked bodies. The sponsors Laprovaig have been well repaid.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

My land, your land

At the beginning of Rebecca Wolman's new play about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the three actors emerge Eden-like from the ground, winding themselves around the branches of a starkly-lit fig tree. It is a fitting start to a play which reminds us that none of us has an absolute claim to the land we briefly inhabit, and which is notable throughout for a strikingly efficient economy of image and action.



The Garden of Habutman, Tricycle Theatre

Told by Wolman's own company, Besht Tellers, through a closely-woven mix of narrative, drama, and symbolism, *The Garden of Habutman* plays out in miniature the disputed land claims that lie intractably at the heart of the conflict. The story, as it gradually and clearly emerges, turns around a young Israeli named Yoni (Jalal Hartley). On the eve of Yoni's conscription into the army, an old Palestinian man, Abu Deeb (George Savard), appears in his garden

clutching the dismembered remains of his grandson. They spring at each other with instinctive mistrust, but when he learns that Abu Deeb's past is inextricably linked to his own, Yoni starts to question the stark simplicities of the view inherited from his aggressively Zionist grandfather.

Wolman's script is finely balanced: though the focus is on the Jewish family she gives equal weight to the claims and grievances of both sides. She also has an Israeli playing an Israeli, which makes his own theatrical point. The play ponders the meaning of concepts like courage, terrorism and home, but it avoids simplistic bromides and is leav-

ened by plenty of humour and domestic detail.

All three actors are physically eloquent and movingly empathetic, though Savard could have more confidence in some of his lines. But the stand-out performance comes from Alit Kreiz, who plays three generations of Israelis as well as a young Arab girl with beautifully articulated variations on the theme of feisty but resigned charm.

I found the first half more sure-footed than the second. But Wolman directs with a lightness of touch that only briefly threatens to overburden itself with symbolic meaning. On the tiny climbing-frame of a set, simply and effectively designed by Sue Mayes, she throws a dancing light of vivid moments which find their own organic, almost sensuous rhythm, amplified throughout by music from the jazz saxophonist Theo Travis.

NIGEL CLIFF

Party with a purpose

CONCERT

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St John's

Tavener the AAM has brought together an extraordinary range of specialist musicians in its 25 years of pioneering what its founder choir reformed Handel's metamorphosis of *How beautiful are the feet before Emma Kirkby* bestowed the "blessing of peace". And at the end the *Hallelujah Chorus*. No less, rang out from an age when it was barely known.

Solomon, with Paul Agnew and James Bowman offering virtuoso solo contributions; and as Manze directed a performance of Handel's Op 6 Concerto Grosso in A in which his own cadences and cadenzas seemed to magic the music back to its Italian (and even pre-Italian) roots.

These works were flanked by two comparative rarities, both conducted by Hogwood: *The Anthem for the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle* proclaimed in London in 1749; and *The Anthem for the Foundling Hospital*.

Both are cut-and-paste jobs, recycling music from *Messiah* and elsewhere. Some cutting, some paste! The New College Oxford choir reformed Handel's metamorphosis of *How beautiful are the feet before Emma Kirkby* bestowed the "blessing of peace". And at the end the *Hallelujah Chorus*. No less, rang out from an age when it was barely known.

HILARY FINCH

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1170-1171, 1172-1173, 1174-1175, 1176-1177, 1178-1179, 1180-1181, 1182-1183, 1184-1185, 1186-1187, 1188-1189, 1190-1191, 1192-1193, 1194-1195, 1196-1197, 1198-1199, 1200-1201, 1202-1203, 1204-1205, 1206-1207, 1208-1209, 1210-1211, 1212-1213, 1214-1215, 1216-1217, 1218-1219, 1220-1221, 1222-1223, 1224-1225, 1226-1227, 1228-1229, 1230-1231, 1232-1233, 1234-1235, 1236-1237, 1238-1239, 1240-1241, 1242-1243, 1244-1245, 1246-1247, 1248-1249, 1250-1251, 1252-1253, 1254-1255, 1256-1257, 1258-1259, 1260-1261, 1262-1263, 1264-1265, 1266-1267, 1268-1269, 1270-1271, 1272-1273, 1274-1275, 1276-1277, 1278-1279, 1280-1281, 1282-1283, 1284-1285, 1286-1287, 1288-1

■ OPERA

Genesis of Paul Bunyan

Britten's duet with a poet

As the Royal Opera revives Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan*, Mike Ashman looks back at the stormy friendship with W.H. Auden that sparked the work

A "most surprising day", wrote the 22-year-old Benjamin Britten in his diary towards the end of April 1935. "I am booked to do the music to a film on the new Jubilee Stamp..."

A keen cinemagoer who enjoyed both Walt Disney and Hitchcock, Britten took naturally to the tight working disciplines of film music, and his new employer, the GPO documentary film unit, soon offered a second project. Britten was driven to Makenzie to meet the documentary writer for *Coal: Face*, a 28-year-old school master and poet called Wystan Auden. The composer thought him "the most amazing man, a very brilliant and attractive personality". Auden found Britten "extremely young" but, when he heard Britten's setting of his lyrics, was fired by "his extraordinary musical sensitivity in relation to the English language".

The meeting initiated a close professional and personal relationship — significant to Auden, vital to Britten — but one that would last barely seven years. They collaborated on *Night Mail*, where Britten accompanied Auden's galloping onomatopoeic verse ("This is the night mail crossing the border/Bringing the cheque and the postal order") with music employing "compressed steam, sandpaper and miniature rails". Then they parodied the whole documentary genre in *The Way to the Sea*, a mock epic treatment of Southern Railways' new express to Brighton.

Britten also provided the music (including a terrific

blues) for two of the plays Auden wrote together with Christopher Isherwood for the left-wing Group Theatre. There were experimental radio documentaries and a big concert work, *Our Hunting Fathers*, which used man's treatment of the animal kingdom to symbolise the worsening political situation in 1930s Europe. In the audience sat Frank Bridge, Vaughan Williams and Britten's much loved mother, all interested, critical and slightly shocked.

Auden provided Britten with verse for cabaret songs and more serious statements. Britten actually set to music two poems almost certainly written to encourage him to be more open about his emotional and sexual feelings. "We were extraordinarily interfering in this respect," remembered Isherwood; Auden (in a mock will) even penned the lines "for my friend Benjamin Britten, composer, I beg that fortune send him soon a passionate affair".

Fortune was soon to send both men a passionate affair — and a long journey. Auden was an inveterate traveller in search of political and intellectual action. He moved to New York in January 1936 and met the young student Chester Kallman ("Mr Right has come into my life"). That summer Britten, in part following Auden's lead, reached New York with Peter Pears.

Although always aware of music, Auden had been brought up "to think that opera was impossible". But Kallman loved opera and made a thorough convert out of his new friend. The timing was

good. Britten was on hand and was told by his publishers that opportunities were rife in New York for an opera that could be performed by high schools.

If the course of true love now ran relatively smooth for the two expatriate collaborators, that of their first opera did not. Auden was to settle for his subject on Paul Bunyan, the mythological giant American logger. The idea may have started during what the poet called his "honeymoon" holiday with Kallman — spent partly "in a log cabin with the most wonderful view over towards the mountains of Colorado, our horizon is about 300 miles long. It's very pioneer and you would laugh to see me rising at dawn to chop wood and draw water..."

So the legend of Bunyan seemed a perfect "matter of America" theme. The leading Auden scholar Edward Mendelson notes that John Dryden (much admired by Auden) had written a *King Arthur* for Purcell, "the first and still the only libretto written by a major English poet for a major English composer". Auden would write *Paul Bunyan* for Britten, and it "would be second".

Britten created a score whose sheer range of expression (and instrumentation) put to good use almost every one of the diverse compositional tasks he had tackled with Auden in the 1930s. Blues, musical "numbers", filmic underscoring, grand operatic parody and shades of Kurt Weill and Alban Berg helped an extraordinary "choral opera" to carry Auden's weightier sub-

Lumberjack song: a scene from the Royal Opera's staging of *Paul Bunyan*, the opera conceived by Britten and Auden during their time in America

text of "How to live well in a country that the pioneers have made it possible to live in."

The eventual (and essentially) premiere was at Columbia University in May 1941, and less than successful. "Auden's characters," comments Mendelson, "were American in the same way that the characters in *The Mikado* are Japanese, and American critics who were not bored were offended." But the work's first public already seemed to enjoy the hybrid form — more

a play with extended musical numbers than pure opera — that worried the "experts" because they could not precisely tag it. An increasing number of revivals since Britten (slightly) reworked the score in 1973 has confirmed that popular impression.

For the Britten-Auden relationship, however, *Bunyan* was the beginning of an end. On Peter Pears's prompting, composer and tenor left the Bohemian ménage in Brooklyn where their flatmates (during

the run-up to *Bunyan*'s premiere) had included Auden, the novelist Carson McCullers, the writer/composer Paul Bowles and the writer/strip-typer Gypsy Rose Lee. At first Pears and Britten went West to California, before returning to wartime England. Just before they left America came Auden's most intrusive lecture yet, written for Pears's eyes as well: "If you are really to develop to your full stature, you will have, I think, to suffer, and make others suffer, in

ways which are totally strange to you at present." The working relationship now trailed off in parallel with the personal one. Britten provided incidental music for Auden's joint reworking (with Bertolt Brecht) of *The Duchess of Malfi*. But only very small sections of their planned collaboration on a Christmas oratorio called *For The Time Being* were ever set. An Auden poem was used in the *Spring Symphony*. And that was to be it.

Pears said later that "Ben

was on a different track now, and he was no longer prepared to be dominated — bullied — by Wystan". While Auden (and Kallman) went on to create opera libretti for Igor Stravinsky and Hans Werner Henze, Britten was never to collaborate again with a major living poet in his operas and song settings.

● Paul Bunyan opens at Sadler's Wells (0171-563 8000) tomorrow with a reduced price preview. Mendelson's *Laurel Auden* is published by Faber and Faber in May

Jobs for the boys

Never have the pop charts been so full of boy bands and never has the West End been host to so many rock musicals. Put the two together and you have a formula which surely cannot fail. That, at least, is the thinking behind *Boyband*, not a rock musical but a "pop drama", which comes to the London stage in June.

While *Buddy* and *Grease* wallow in Fifties nostalgia and *Saturday Night Fever* and *Mamma Mia!* revisit the Seventies, Peter Quilter's play is an entirely contemporary take on the pop world. The problem is that the show is all pop and little drama. A successful musical stands or falls on the quality of its songs but at the same time it requires some semblance of a plot. The producers are aware of this, and insist that by the time it gets to the West End it will be a different and better show.

Modelled on groups such as Take That and Boyzone, Quilter's fictitious band Freedom are five young men and they all sing and dance impressively. In particular, Damien Flood's lead singer, Sean, and Daniel Crossley as the songwriter Danny. Many of the songs, too, are convincing, cre-



ated under the supervision of music consultant Tina Matthews and several of them, such as *All This And Heaven Too*, could easily hold their own on the Radio 1 playlist.

The plot, such as it is, involves a manipulative manager played by Bryan Murphy and the band's attempt to wrest back control of their career. Yet the characterisation is thin and the manager's lines clichéd. The power struggle within the band between Sean and Danny, loosely based on the falling out between Take That's Gary Barlow and Robbie Williams, is better drawn yet other interesting sub-plots are undeveloped. We have Matt, the gay one, played engagingly by Tom Ashton, the one who already has a child and the one with a drug problem. All three have to keep their circumstances secret but the dramatic potential of the conflict between public and private lives is merely sketched out rather than coloured in.

The next famous five? Freedom, *Boyband*'s fictitious group

The set is minimal but clever use is made of a video screen to show fictitious interviews and MTV coverage and the choreography, under the direction of Billie's dance-music producer Phil Griffin, is powerful. If they can tweak the plot and flesh out the characters a

little more, *Boyband* will be irresistible. And if they release *All This And Heaven Too* as a single, life will surely imitate art and Freedom will have a huge chart hit on their hands.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Devilish silly



and commerce are shrewdly unfaithful bedfellows; a bit, some would argue, like the theatre world which Masson himself inhabits.

But let's not read too much into things. For when it works best, *Stiff* is a glorious piece of musical fluff that delights in its own silliness. Masson nev-

er lets up from the moment he rises from the grave, while an excellent supporting cast is led hilariously by Jennifer Black as the object of George's affections turned singing nun. Cherubs in drag guard the pearly gates while Gordon Douglall's rousing if somewhat unmemorable tunes are performed live by a cast obviously savouring every double entendre.

Where *Stiff* really falls down is in its pre-election insistence on addressing "the

Scottish question". One-dimensional parochialisms and clichéd political comment will succeed only in shortening both *Stiff*'s lifespan and its travelling power. Director Caroline Hall, however, is to be praised for somehow keeping order. And, with some brutal editing and a three-week run to get things up to speed, Masson should not only have the first big theatrical hit of the new Scottish Parliament on his hands, but will have proved once and for all that it's not just the devils of London's West End who have all the best tunes.

NEIL COOPER

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■ INSTRUMENTAL

■ LISZT/LAJTHA
Piano Trios
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THE Takacs Trio, formed by the ex-leader of the Takacs Quartet, give next Monday's Radio 3 lunchtime concert at the Wigmore Hall, and they have just released an enterprising and irresistible disc which shows off well the tangy character of their musicianship.

They pay homage to their great musical compatriot Ferenc Liszt in three rarely-heard and delicious transcriptions for piano trio; and they introduce us to his successor, a contemporary of Bartók and Kodály, whose qualities are only just beginning to be made known: Laszlo Lajtha. Lajtha, like Liszt, spent valuable musical time in Paris; and the spectrum of Rameau can be discerned through dense clouds of paprika in the fiery Trio Concertant, while the 1930 Sonatine for violin and piano

pays oblique homage to Bach. The sparky enthusiasm of the Takacs Trio certainly whets the appetite to hear more of Lajtha. More, too, over and over again, of Liszt's mischievous makeovers of his own Hungarian Rhapsodies in which the Takacs Trio sound like an oversize one-man gypsy band, and of this intriguing and virtuosic metamorphosis of *Tristia* from La Vallée d'Obermann.

HILARY FINCH

■ OPERA

■ CENTURY'S GREATEST SINGERS IN PUCCINI
Romophone 86001-2 (distributed by Harmonia Mundi)

ROMOPHONE'S arm stretches way back to the first decades of the century for this collection of Puccini allstars. No one born after 1900 gets much of a look in. The finest tracks belong to Gigli, taken when he was in his mid-thirties and before some of the vocal manner-

isms which marred his later years had arrived. The Cavardossi arias from *Tosca* have the warmth and virility of the great tenor in his prime. Equally impressive is Des Grieux belted out at his first sight of Manon Lescaut. John McCormack's account of Rodolfo's Act 1 aria from *Bohème* is grace itself.

Staying with *Bohème*, Lucien Bori skips easily between Musetta and Mimì, while Dame Nellie Melba tries a bit too hard to be skittish in the latter role. Claudia Muzio, a dramatic soprano if ever there was one, is shown at her best in *Tosca* and *Suor Angelica*. They were not afraid of Puccini's emotional outbursts in the 1920s, as Sheridan and Perle prove in the final duet from *Manon Lescaut*.

There are no dud tracks, but a dud accompanying booklet.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

No texts, and no contexts for chosen extracts. Worse still, there are no singer biographies: only connoisseurs and greybeards are likely to know who Margaret Sheridan and Edith Mason were. So lose a star for shoddy work.

JOHN HIGGINS

■ ORCHESTRAL

■ MENDELSSOHN
Italian and Reformation Symphonies
Vienna PO/Gardiner
DG 459 156-2
*** £15.99

THE stereotypical image of Mendelssohn is that of a prodigiously fluent composer, whose speed and facility of writing inevitably raise suspicions of lack of depth. In fact, he was one of the most scrupulous, perfectionist composers of all time, and plagued by self-doubt. Even the *Italian Symphony*, whose sunny Mediterranean geniality radiates such confidence, was subjected to extensive alteration.

Curiously, this latter, 1834 version (the year following the premiere) has been neither published nor recorded until now, even though it deserves to be regarded as the composer's final thoughts on the subject. An edition by John Michael Cooper is about to be published in Wiesbaden, while John Eliot Gardiner offers both original and revised versions in this new account with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

The alterations, which affect all movements except the first, range from details of melody and scoring to (in the *Saltarello*) substantial structural modifications. The performances of both versions, as well as of the *Reformation Symphony*, are everything one would expect from this collaboration: perceptive, dynamic and immaculately executed.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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Inside the mind's cage

The victim relives a kidnapping for years afterwards, says **Brian Keenan**

I admit to having had some difficulties with this book: it took me some time to home in on what the author "was pursuing." I became increasingly aware as I read that perhaps Jan Philipp Reemtsma was taking himself hostage again while washing his hands of the trauma of his captivity. Within the first dozen pages he writes: "There is no copyright on your own life, but it's easier to come to terms with every kind of misappropriation if there is a standing text somewhere you can point to."

Jan Philipp Reemtsma, a businessman and intellectual, was abducted outside his house in Hamburg in 1996. Held for ransom, he was chained by his ankles in a small cellar for 13 days. This book, translated by Carol Brown Janeway, is his account of his imprisonment, and as such seemed to me at times a troubled "standing text" on what he might describe as the paradox between intimacy and enmity, those conflicting emotions are the constant reality of the enclosed world of the hostage. This is not an easy subject to write about, as I know from experience: Reemtsma employs a very stylised construct that, for me anyway, obscured the organic development of the work.

Three voices sit in an uneasy harmony: the writer/author, Reemtsma as hostage and an ambiguous "he," Reemtsma from a third party perspective. The elaboration of these personae helps him, as he says, "to incorporate [his experience] into one's own biography, to make it accessible to words." I accept this, but think that it is done in preparation to the writer's word.

Jan Philipp Reemtsma is the founder/director of the Ham-

IN THE CELLAR
By Jan Philipp Reemtsma
Secker & Warburg, £14.99
ISBN 0 436 20469 X



burg Institute for social research. His book is very well informed with Freudian and philosophical analysis of his experience and feelings, which I found intriguing. But sometimes I found that the urgent and informed logic the author applies had the tendency to lead to word games and semantic confusion.

I can sympathise with this. The most difficult problem I, like Reemtsma, had to confront in writing about such an experience was this dilemma: how does one write about a time when nothing happened, but everything happened, or what the author calls, a "falling out of the world"?

Maybe because I felt close to Reemtsma and was unconsciously urging him through his existentialist confrontation that I felt the book took too long to "open up" the cellar. Also, Reemtsma tells us that he and his wife had considered writing a joint book from the separate diaries they kept during his captivity. The project never came about, but I felt that some of this concept was subsumed unsuccessfully into the first half of the book.

However, the last third of

the book is where the real conflict begins and where the light begins to filter into the writer's cellar. The rigour of his emotionally scarred intellect demands much of the reader and reveals much about the act of writing. He states: "Writing marked a place outside feeling and in writing he controlled this place."

A few pages later he declares: "English allows you to be succinct, ironic, sarcastic and yet not so much cynical as German." Perhaps it is the cynical distance that holds the author back from "falling out of the world" once more and into his captivity where words and language are no more than the gibberish of Babel.

But he does explore feelings and states I know all too well. He analyses guilt, shame, fear, loneliness and helplessness, all with the clean perception of the intellectual cynic. He questions the central core of Western philosophy and its exposition of the individual, the self and the soul. He enters into debate with St Augustine, Descartes, Montaigne, Hume, Wittgenstein, Sartre and Kant in a fast-paced dialectic that resolves nothing but explores everything. I know this journey. I have travelled with some of these men and a few others — if not with the same erudition as Reemtsma, then with the same passion.

But whatever difficulty I had with the first half of this book and whatever closeness I felt in the last third, the concluding pages disturbed me. The freed hostage looks on life from a point of seemingly irreversible displacement. His world is absurd. His capacity to rejoice is irrevocably damaged. In such a world death is easy and desirable. Hate gnaws at him, but he states: "I gain no compensation from



Apart from a broken nose, the damage done to Reemtsma was mental — his sense of no longer belonging to the world

hated. The time in the cellar destroyed this symmetry too." In the closing pages the author declares himself quintessentially dispossessed. He writes: "I think human Utopias are human fear in distorted form. The feelings I have been trying to describe here can be

summed up in almost no other way. Everything is as it was, except that it and I no longer fit together. . . . I can't get a hold on things anymore. . . . The world and self are no longer in harmony." The closing line of the book concludes eerily: "In the cellar feelings of no longer

being part of the world had their place. In the world they have none. The only place I was at home with these feelings was in the cellar." Reemtsma's book is a poignant testimony and a harrowing attempt to come to terms with himself. But I don't want

to believe in the fatalism of his final words — even if at times I feel it breathing down my neck. Because I choose not to. My own captive experience taught me that choice is the crown of life and not to choose is to tumble blindly back into the cellar, with no reprieve.

Statesman present at the creation of the postwar world

Dean Acheson, the subject of James Chace's fine *Acheson: The Secretary of State who Created the American World* (Simon & Schuster, £25; ISBN 0 684 80843 9), is best remembered in this country for his 1962 aphorism at the West Point Military Academy in which he said: "Great Britain has lost an empire and not yet

found a role." It touched a very sore spot only six years after Suez and on the threshold of de Gaulle's veto on our first and already belated attempt to join the Common Market — as it was then called.

But he should be still more remembered for his part in the Marshall Plan, in the putting together of Nato and in the rallying of the Western world

from the post-1945 slough of despond which led on, after 40 years of long and often tense waiting, to the great bloodless victory of 1989. Acheson was not an unduly modest man, but when he called the second (1969) volume of his memoirs *Present at the Creation* it was by no means an unfounded bit of bombast.

As Secretary of State from 1949 to 1953 (having been Under-Secretary in 1945-47) Acheson was, with General George Marshall, one of the twin pillars of the Truman administration. Although he was the epitome of an East Coast foreign policy establishment "gent", Acheson had a profound admiration for the courageous decisiveness of his largely self-educated boss who had been catapulted into the presidency from a background of Missouri machine politics by the death of Roosevelt. They got on very well, despite the fact that Acheson, superficially at least, was exactly the sort of "stuffed shirt" whom Truman instinctively disliked. Acheson's father was an Episcopal clergyman who became Bishop of Connecticut. He himself had been at Groton (America's answer to Eton), at Yale and at the Harvard Law School. He then did two years as law clerk to the great Supreme Court Justice Brandeis before entering a Washington law firm with the splendidly WASP name of Covington and



Truman with the Japanese surrender, 1945. Acheson (in profile) stands on the right

Burling. From this secure base he made his several political excursions into high appointed (but never elected) Democratic office.

He was Roosevelt's Under Secretary of the Treasury in 1933, but lasted only eight months owing to a policy dispute. Then he had four and a half wartime years as one of the four Assistant Secretaries of the State Department, resigned in 1945 to go back to private life and practice, but was summoned back by Truman after a few weeks to be the sole Under Secretary in the Department. He had a more successful legal sabbatical from 1947 to 1949, and then reached his apotheosis when he replaced Marshall for the immensely testing last four

years of Truman's term.

Acheson never really got on with his fellow Grotonian, Roosevelt. This was partly because he felt that the President patronised him, although this was a very difficult thing to do with the astirgent and self-confident Acheson. Maybe it was because Acheson, in spite of his blue chip education, was in English terms the equivalent of a "poor" Etonian — a Douglas Hurd or a Robert Armstrong — and not a magnate in a Cecil or Rothschild sense, which Roosevelt and his near contemporary Averell Harriman were.

This did not prevent Acheson from being himself capable of great put-downs. In the

last year of his life I observed him doing a spectacular one against the Maine Senator Muskie, trying hard to get Acheson's support for his presidential bid. Muskie responded fuzzily to an Acheson foreign policy tour d'horizon by expressing agreement with his broad argument but adding the gloss that there was need for greater democratic participation in policy making. Acheson turned on him like a matador on a feeble bull: "Are you trying to say, Senator, that United States foreign policy should be determined in a series of little town meetings in the State of Maine? Don't ask them, Senator, tell them. When I believe you will do that, I will support you. Until then, not." It was devastating.

It was also one of the last cries of the 30-year-old history of authoritative American world leadership under the auspices of the Democratic party.

Professor Chace provides a wise and admirably paced account of all the central and fairly familiar events of Acheson's life. His difficulty is that Acheson's memoirs were both comprehensive and sparkling, and indeed I was struck by the fact that when a footnote was interesting enough to make me flick through to the reference appendix the source was nearly always given as *Present at the Creation*. However, he surmounts this and has produced an admirable, essentially political biography.

There is, thankfully, no attempt at psycho-sexual revelation, but there are occasional passages on lifestyle, done with perception, restraint and, as far as I can tell, accuracy. On British matters he tends to be slightly off-beam with the detail but — which is more important — very much on-beam with the major issues. He sees the contradiction in Britain's belief that it could improve its "special" relations with America by remaining detached from a European unity, to which US policy was dedicated, with a clarity which unfortunately eluded successive British Prime Ministers.

ROY JENKINS

Poems with good posture

A DEFINITIVE volume of J.H. Prynne's poetry may be greeted by a broader public with about as much excitement as a complete iguana breeder's manual. But for a small, but steadily growing, elect, its arrival is cause for celebration. His previous collection is out of print. And those who did invest in a copy in the 1980s, have probably rendered it broken-spined by now.

For Prynne is not a lyrical poet whose work seeps gently into the bloodstream. Austere cerebral, his poems are informed by scrupulous cogitation. A Cambridge academic, he is unforgiving of intellectu-

al slackness. Writing on anything from "the matter of terminal packing" to marzipan, he teases out impossibly abstruse reflections, opens new corridors for thought to stream down only to realise that the endpoint is vanishing fast, that perhaps it would have been better never to have branched off in the first place.

Prynne's poems are conundrums that demand two types of reading. They ask for coffee, a dictionary and the concentration of an upright posture. But they also need the dreamy meditations of semi-recumbency. The reader is likely to nod off mulling over enigmas. But

waking, head half-pillowed on crumpled pages, he finds an untested stream of insights swimming through the mind: "a sweet cheat, newly torn", or the product of "a level ceremony of diffusion" perhaps.

For the new reader I would suggest that the first way into this complex collection lies in a simple appreciation of the pleasure of sound. "Star-naked your sherbet pinch does spin", "the car spins / with sharp cries, there / is shear at the flowline", "timelike delirium / cools at this crossing, with your head in my arms."

Every word is measured with scientific precision. If the ideas that these poems amass are to be understood, the etymologies and associations of a sharply distinctive vocabulary must be pondered. Prynne uses the concepts of finance and science as metaphors for broader philosophical mean-

POEMS
By J. H. Prynne
Bloodaxe, £25
ISBN 1 85224 491 4



ings. Their specialist systems become the touchstones by which the essence of love, desire, linguistic purity, man's relationship to nature or to the eternal, can be tested.

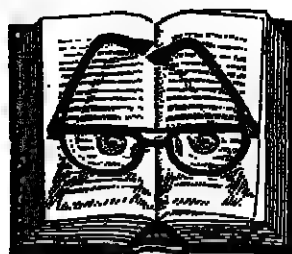
The associations will never be straightforward. This poet's skill is to trace the dif-

fuse ways in which the unedited mind assembles its ideas. Although his poems are not narrative in themselves, they require reading in a meticulously narrative manner.

But before this they require trust. "The whole thing it is, the difficult / matter: to shrink the confines / down", Prynne writes in his opening poem. Holistic theories are not on offer, nor is there any simple reductionist key to each poem.

Yet simple engagement in passages of pure lyricism, backed up by the tautness of lateral coherence, should convince the reader that they are in honourable hands. Prynne may be difficult and unfamiliar. But this is because he is a poet who questions the possibilities of his chosen form with as much art and rigour as T.S. Eliot ever did.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON



BIBLIOMANE

A blast to the masses

■ EZRA POUND, most uncompromising of literary critics, wrote a series of substantial articles in 1917 about the British press and the tastes it played to. He was despairingly funny about the magazines of the masses, such as *Answers*. "The cover addresses me in these terms: 'It will be a red-letter day for you when you receive the corsets, because it will be the beginning of a new life. From the moment when you put them on a ceaseless stream of magnetism permeates the whole body from head to heel. . . . You feel a different woman.'"

In his investigation of "English Kultur", Pound came up against *The Spectator*, and found it "an unfailing butt". Hearsay told him that it "dictated the conservative policy" whatever that phrase may mean. He quotes a few disjointed sentences, illustrating absence of thought. "The Government must act with a proper sense etc. . . ." "The PM made a v.g. speech o.t.w. at Queen's Hall last Sat., the 3d anniv. of G.B. entry i.t.c."

This may look like sloppiness. It isn't. Pound's "etc." points out the omnipresence and futility of sentences proclaiming that "The Government must", and the tautology of calling for "a proper sense of . . .", because the writer is saying no more than that it is proper to have a proper sense. But the great critical stroke comes with his use of those initial letters, which point out how readily the reader can supply the missing words "on the war" and "into the conflict".

He goes on to quote "Our aeroplanes played a.g.p. i.t.v.", showing how words are deadened by their inevitability, just as they are today when a decision by Sinn Féin is said to be "a blow to the p.p.", or we are told of the Serbs "rounding up i.m.w. and c". War and diplomacy rely on verbal placebos — talk of "ground troops" as though there were another kind — but it is instructive to see how much writing can be abbreviated to Pound's "etc". "All one can pray for," he concluded, "is more honesty and less camouflage." His articles deserve to be reprinted.

■ THE Yale Younger Poets series has been going for 80 years, and the YYP Anthology (£25/£10.50), edited and introduced by George Bradley, is chunky and uneven. It is a reminder of how little American poetry is known in Britain. The most established names are often strangers here.

The latest Younger Poet is Craig Arnold, whose *Shells* (£12.50/£7.50) is about masculinity, food and the difficulties of tenderness. There are good, rather weird stories here about obsessive behaviour. Sexual banter between friends is suddenly thrown down like a gauntlet; a craving for spicy food turns pathological. Arnold describes the hard, helmeted surface that men like to show, and how they fear humiliation. Like the collector of blades who thought his interest was "purely amateur", he cuts to the quick.

■ DEIGHTON, BELL, in Cambridge recently catalogued a thousand books of 20th-century poetry from the library of the poet David Posner, greatly underpricing many rare copies. The books were sold almost immediately for what must have been tens of thousands of pounds less than their value — mostly to dealers, who took them to the San Francisco bookfair. Deighton, Bell itself, along with Heffers, has now been bought by Blackwells.

JIM McCUE

IN metro ON SATURDAY

A BIG GIRL NOW: Sophie Parkin talks about her second novel, *Take Me Home*. ALSO: Back from the dead — John Keats tells metro how he wrote

The wild

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BOOKS

The wild border between fable and fiction

Andrew Greig's novel, *When They Lay Bare*, draws the reader into a powerful tale of love and vengeance

Authors are not known for pining up on the subject of sin, but there's one evil most all of them will comfortably agree upon: plagiarism. The lines are clearly drawn: this is mine, that is yours, keep out. At a second glance, however, it's not quite as easy as all that. School teachers constantly come up against the problem of admitting that, er, well, no, Shakespeare didn't make up those stories, he nicked them from someone else. A few years ago an Australian scholar levelled an accusation of plagiarism at Graham Swift, claiming that his Booker Prize-winning novel *Last Orders* had a structure and story uncomfortably close to William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*, however, months earlier, *The Times* reviewer, Claire Messud, noted not plagiarism but an homage to the late American writer.

In the face of this confusion, it is worth reminding ourselves that there are some stories which seem to spring — eternally, and eternally renewed — from a kind of story-bank kept safe through generations of human minds. This is not quite the same as making the argument, as some do, that there are only seven stories in all the world; just that there are narratives that have drawn and will draw people from all cultures in all times. Stories of love and betrayal; of familial antagonisms; of supernatural doings. It was recently pointed out to me that the presumably modern obsession with X-Files alien abductions is no more than an updating of the old legends, with their fairy kings and queens whisking hapless mortals away with them.

And so to Andrew Greig, whose debut novel, *When They Lay Bare*, is a skilful riff on an ancient ballad. *The Two Corbies* is a borderlands' story, its origins in the "debatable lands" between Scotland and England where, in the 15th and 16th centuries, only a natural law of honour and retribution existed between families and clans. An unidentified narrator overhears two ravens, or corbies, planning the feast they will make on the body of a slain knight whose lady — for unknown reasons — has taken another lover. It is a spare and haunting tale: never mentioned are the actual causes of the knight's death, or the source of the enmity that lay behind his killing. It is through this ancient skeleton's whitering ribs that Greig, in the best and oldest tradition of story-spinning, has threaded his tale.



Erica Wagner

Greig brings danish rivalry into the modern day. David Elliot is set to inherit the estate of his father, Sir Simon Elliot, or what's left of it. Half was lost when Sir Simon and David's mother divorced, in large part due to an affair the elder Elliot had with a woman who was a lauder: the two families at odds for generations. Jimmy Lauder died in mysterious circumstances; now

has a similar effect on the Elliots. *When They Lay Bare* respects and transforms the tradition it springs from. It is now a commonplace to say that the most exciting new writers in Britain come from north of the border — from Alasdair Gray to Irvine Welsh to Alison Kennedy to Alex Benzie — if further proof were needed, Greig provides it. He is adventurous and precise with his language, moving with ease between standard English and dialect Scots. A skill like this might, however, be seen as little more than a sleight of hand performed with vowels and consonants; what goes deeper is the author's ability to delineate the landscape of emotion — and the emotion in the landscape — with enviable grace. He is particularly good at the latter, raising before the reader's eyes the bleakly savage landscape that still exists — remarkably — only a few hundred miles from the mild and sleepy south: a place of trees twisted by wind, of sharp-eyed hawks, of treacherous burns. As to the former, it would be hard to say that his writing is clear where the feelings of his characters are concerned: better that he is adept at

conveying their confusion. Modern men and women, they are trapped in a story that is more their inheritance than any acre or heirloom. Few writers, these days, have the courage to grapple with Fate: Greig meets it head on. The old ballads draw in the listener with their sparseness and their story. *When They Lay Bare* does the same, for this is a thriller and no mistaking it, though one as black and deep as a border tarr. Marnie Lauder unsettles the already uneasy lives of the Elliots and those around them: in this haunted story it is hardly surprising to find Sim Elliot's factor, Tat, with a gift for carving goblin netsuke, the ruby eyes of his tiny beasts gazing out with the silent wisdom of blood. Who Marnie really is, her mother's real fate: that is for the reader to discover, as Greig's tale sings through this book. "Over his white bones when they are bare! The winds shall blow for evermore! The winds shall blow for evermore!"

WHEN THEY LAY BARE
By Andrew Greig
Faber, £16.99
ISBN 0 571 19687 X

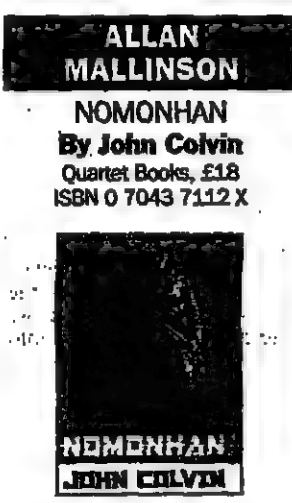


On the run from love

SISTER
By A. Manette Ansay
Allison & Busby Ltd, £7.99
ISBN 0 749 00 403 7
SAM is a fallen angel in a fiercely Catholic family. Brought up by the scruff of his neck, his father practised the kind of rough love that gives a sore heart and a sore head. A. Manette Ansay begins her tale from the Midwest with the news of Sam's disappearance. She pieces together his life through the eyes of his sibling Abigail. Sister wooed the critics when it came out in America earlier this year. With her insight into the anatomy of persecution, she can only repeat the exercise over here.

Savage battle of a secret war

I remember very clearly sitting in the Malay jungle as a newly commissioned officer nearly 30 years ago, reading with mounting dismay Noel Barber's *Sinister Twilight* (still the best book on the fall of Singapore), wondering how on earth the Japanese seemed to arrive so unexpectedly — and what, indeed, I was doing there 30 years on. John Colvin's *Nomonhan* — a battle I had never heard of then — explains all.



opposed by the Japanese navy, principally, and those in the general staff who favoured expansion south into Indo-China. The Japanese Kwantung army, occupying Manchuria, acted increasingly independently of Tokyo and drove "Strike North" policy, was

Ikun Gol, a 60 mile buffer along the Halha river, demarcating the border between Mongolia and Manchuria, became the scene of fierce fighting between the technological superior Soviet army (under Zhukov) and the fanatically brave Japanese. It is not just the casualty figures at Nomonhan, as the principal battle is usually called, that chill (anything from 25,000 to 50,000 Japanese dead); it is the nature of the fighting — desperate, confused, visceral. "Yamagata's Group 2 horribly ambushed 150 Soviet Buriat Mongols singing military ditties on the march, and slaughtered 80 of them at point-blank range over open sights, taking two prisoners." All fighting is desperate, confused and visceral, but at Nomonhan it was "personal" too — the race factor. John Colvin is exceptionally well qualified to write of the battle, its origins and consequences — the only book in English to consider all three



A Mongolian pilot and a Russian officer before the battle of Nomonhan, 1939. Picture: the Mongolian Embassy

fully. He was born in Tokyo, served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and then joined the diplomatic service, becoming High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, Consul General in Hanoi and Ambassador to Mongolia. He writes economically, his style a mixture of Foreign Office tel-

egrams and naval signal. The reader must pay attention. But the pearls are there: "In the propaganda section of the HQ, the poet, Konstantin Simonov found the earth floor littered with photographs taken from Japanese corpses... Mount Fuji, snaps of parents, wives, children, cherry blossoms, all that heartbreak in the huge, military machine with its grand, pitiless movement of events, trampled by the feet of white strangers."

After Nomonhan the Japanese had no expansion alternative but to strike south (and Pearl Harbor), and Colvin speculates convincingly on the

consequences for the war in Europe had Nomonhan been a victory for them — the only comforting bit of an otherwise gruesome story. Allan Mallinson is a serving Army colonel. His novel, *A Close Run Thing*, is published by Bantam, £15.99.

In the dock

CORNER KINGDOM
By John Campbell
Lagan Press, £5.99
ISBN 1 87368765 6
THE debut novel by John Campbell, a Belfast poet, takes us to the dockyard where he worked from school leaving age until 1985. Descriptions of working class Belfast in the Fifties includes the detail to be expected of a man who has spent over 30 years on the job. Campbell shadows a young boy from his first day at work. But what could be a sickly-sweet mouthful of nostalgia — where flat-capped workers sweat blood, read *The Mirror* and drink warm ale — has a ferocious aftertaste.

Easy does it

DOÑA PERFECTA
By Benito Pérez Galdós
Phoenix House, £16.99
ISBN 1 851591 31 1
THIS fresh translation, by A. R. Tulloch, of a book by the 19th-century writer Benito Pérez Galdós explores the effect the social changes of 19th-century Spain had on the country's religious orthodoxy. Pepe Ray leaves Madrid for the rural nowhere of Orbeja where he means to claim an inheritance. But his aunt, Doña Perfecta, treats on her nephew's plans. Although Pérez Galdós is acute in his portrayal of relatives who can't quite relate, *Doña Perfecta* never quite recovers from its drowsy beginning.

ALEX O'CONNELL

Ferocious flower fetish

Tulipmania has been much in evidence this year. Perhaps as we recoil from the greed of the previous decade, the idea of how another nation once attracted disaster by its speculation on the tulip bulb offers the consolations of history. In the case of Deborah Moggach's *Tulip Fever* it also inspires a sumptuous and enthralling novel about art, love, illusion and money. Sophia is the young and beautiful wife of an Amsterdam merchant, Cornelis. A collector of beautiful things in a city famed for its wealth and propriety, Cornelis adores her. Sophia, however, is cold and childless; her closest relationship is with her maid, Maria. Unlike her mistress, Maria is all too well acquainted with the lineaments of love, enjoying the embraces of the local fishmonger, Willem. Then the adoring Cornelis hires a painter, Jan van Loos, to immortalise his marriage on canvas. Inevitably, Jan and Sophia fall in love, but it is Maria, not Sophia, who becomes pregnant. Pretending to be with child herself, the mistress can keep her maid — and reject her husband, whose embraces make her feel "like an up-turned beetle pressed down by a shoe". Soon, another plot begins to form, born of desperation and opportunism. Vast fortunes can be made by speculating on a single tulip bulb — and it is money, as well as cunning, which will set Sophia and Jan free.



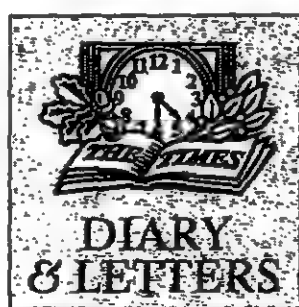
Moggach writes marvellously about the world of the senses. Sex, food, cloth are all described with a passionate precision, a delight in the sensual that is reminiscent of Michèle Roberts. Her small cast of characters are thor-



Passion blossoming from a bloom. Picture: Bridgeman

oughly known and their contortions in the cage of materialism are evoked with compassion, wit and humour. The shimmering, watery nature of Holland itself is linked so skilfully to every metaphor in the novel that its moral intelligence could easily be overlooked. At its heart, *Tulip Fever* is about the world of the spirit and its conflict with the world of the flesh. As each character executes his or her move in the intricate tragicomedy that develops, it is this spiritual dimension which deepens the novel and provides the denouement of a classic.

Where the novel is less satisfactory is in the author's mistrust of the reader's intelligence. Moggach has not, so far, been given her due as a novelist — perhaps because of her unfashionable fidelity to narrative — and it could be said this which produces a sense of strain, of trying to be at once literary and middlebrow. She is good enough to let her work speak for itself, but again and again the skeleton of research grins through. As a reader, you thoroughly resent this. We



has conjured up out of words. Anyone who loves painting (and indeed, anyone who loves gardening) will relish this book, which is the best of its kind since Barry Unsworth's *Stone Virgin*. But for Deborah Moggach to achieve the heights one senses she is capable of, she needs — like her own painter — to think less about the vices exemplified by tulip fever.

"I HOPE EVERYONE READS MIKE AND DAVE AND THAT IT WINS ALL THE PRIZES"

LITERARY REVIEW

DORIS LESSING

Mara and Dann

AN ADVENTURE

AN ECOLOGICAL WARNING, A CAUTIONARY FABLE AND A QUEST FOR SURVIVAL AND TRUTH

www.breadandwater.com

APRIL 22 1999
BIBLIOMANE
A blast to the masses

Brideshead and beyond

Once it was a question of how to convince Oxbridge colleges that they wanted you as a student. Increasingly, however, Oxford and Cambridge have had to go on the offensive to convince students that they might want to choose one of these two universities.

So the question "What are the ancient universities looking for?" has evolved to include "And what do they offer that students might be seeking?" And there is the added complication of how best to choose your college if it seems as if both parties can do business.

First then, what are Oxford and Cambridge after? It helps to look good on paper, of course, but perfection is not a prerequisite. Established excellence in one area may be preferred against consummate achievement across the board, and this is where the school reference plays a crucial part. If a student does not have a string of starred As at GCSE, but is a genius in his or her chosen field, then their school has an obligation to say so.

Much is read into that "extra certain something" expected of Oxbridge candidates. All this really means is an appetite to learn, an ability to be taught and a capacity to think beyond the bounds of A level towards some larger academic picture.

In this context it is essential that candidates use the interview to demonstrate that they are capable of handling the demands of the tutorial system. Like a tutorial, the interview is less about getting answers right or wrong than it is about keeping the intellectual ball rolling and giving the impression that you would enjoy keeping it rolling for a further three years.

Of course the interview procedure cuts both ways. If done play the encounter as an exercise in sadomasochism, then students are entitled to have second thoughts about whether or not they might be happier elsewhere.

This leads us to our second point of inquiry: what do Cambridge and Oxford deliver?

The transformation of the student population from the grateful beneficiaries of higher education into canny consumers means that the many advantages of the Oxbridge system are now weighed against a variety of other considerations — from the limited vocational content of most courses to the abject lack of nightlife in either city. Many view Oxbridge merely as a social anachronism that they can live without.

After years of access schemes and target-schools activity, the ancient universi-

Hannah Betts debunks the myth of Oxbridge as a home for the privileged

ties are somewhat surprised to find that they continue to be seen as some sort of *Brideshead Revisited* throwback. Nor is it impossible to get in, whatever the universities' reputation for being ultra-selective. The average is three applicants per place, while at Bristol, Sheffield or Manchester universities it is more likely to be ten.

What Oxbridge offers can be summarised in simple material terms. It has world-class libraries; excellence in academic teaching; a tutorial system that can be tailored to meet individual needs and interests; an atmosphere in which scholarship is valued at all levels; and a respect for personal intellectual development sometimes missing at larger institutions.

The amount of money circulating through these two universities actually works to the advantage, rather than to the detriment, of poorer students — hardship, book and travel grants augment the traditional stipend offered by the college scholarship. Even the lack of after-hours entertainment is in some way compensated for by the vast number of celebri-

ties willing to pass through the universities' hallowed corridors.

At a more worldly level, some graduates speak highly of the network of contacts that they have built up by the time they leave college. Moreover, it is certainly still the case that some employers feel that Oxbridge is something special and happily turn to their ancient universities for their graduate intake.

If this sounds appealing, the only remaining decision is which college — a choice typically dictated by a combination of knowing someone who went there, knee-jerk prejudice and the random superstitions of a student's sixth-form adviser. The college identities are considerably more homogenised than they were 20 years ago when issues such as the decline of public school dominance, the admission of women to "men's colleges" and greater student activism could create odd pockets of communal behaviour.

Both Oxford and Cambridge publish formal (university) and informal (student) admissions guides that help to simplify the process. In this case at least, size is important and students need to weigh up whether they can handle the potential claustrophobia of a community of 350 or the prospect of a less cohesive peer group of twice that size.

Applicants could do a lot worse than to read some of the work written by the individual who will teach them. This is after all, the person who will be in charge of their education for the next three years — what better insight into the way in which their mind works? Take the opportunity to visit, but bear in mind that the open days tend to be during the vacation and colleges always feel rather odd with nobody in them.

Be prepared to think laterally — a college's reputation for good food may seem like an irrelevance, but it produces a real community focus, and with a minimum of three years ahead, it may ultimately become rather more important. Similarly, a college's wealth may seem only a minor consideration, but it may have a big impact on living costs, rent rises and subsequent scholarships.

Prince William is said to be considering his choice at Oxbridge, with Lincoln College, Oxford, the current seat of Eric Anderson, the Prince of Wales's friend and former teacher, rumoured to be a strong favourite. This may present a final consideration for Prince William's many young admirers.



Graduating from Oxford: like Cambridge, a great place for forming networks

IN THE GUIDE TOMORROW

The 1999 edition of the original league table: will Cambridge still be top? Plus, which are the popular subjects, and do they lead to jobs?



One of Magdalen college's two new Gothic-style student accommodation blocks

Dealing with the highs and lows

How to get value from reading the Norrington and Tompkins tables

Cambridge and Oxford have a love-hate relationship with the tables that establish their academic rankings, *Hannah Betts* writes.

On the one hand, the attribution of points for graduates' degree results is dismissed as only a crude index of academic success. At the same time, whenever the latest rankings are published, High Table gossip is about little else.

Certainly there is an argument for viewing these tables with some cynicism. They are compiled on the basis that a first is worth five points, a 2:1 four, a 2:2 three and a third-class degree one point. This means that poorer performance by a relatively small number of undergraduates can have a dramatic effect on a particular year's figures.

If applicants allow the tables to influence their choice of college, they should take into account more than one year's results.

The latest Norrington Table of Oxford colleges should be viewed in this light. While some colleges achieve a fairly stable performance, others show a degree of flux. Balliol is back on form after plummeting to 19th place last year, from its previous position of second. Christ Church similarly restores its fortunes.

Worcester has risen impressively from near the bottom of the list to make the top ten. St Peter's, one of the poorer colleges, improves its ranking, albeit less dramatically, to make the top 20.

Others fare less well. Corpus Christi plummets from seventh to twenty-fourth place and Trinity drops from eighth to twenty-fifth. Cambridge's Tompkins Table, compiled by Peter Tompkins of Price Waterhouse, reveals far less erratic results. Trinity, Queens' and Christ's retain their position as the top three colleges, with merely a slight reshuffling. In the main, performance is similarly static.

Sidney Sussex's performance is the only surprise, dropping from fourth to seventeenth place. Founded in 1596, Sidney Sussex is the newest of the older colleges, but lacks the wealth of many of its peers.

This leads to the final caveat about the league tables. Older, richer colleges tend to do well, while newer, poorer ones typically fare badly — with women's colleges traditionally low down in, if not bottom of, the pile.

New Hall — one of Cam-

1 (4) Jesus	84.0
2 (1) Merton	83.8
3 (5) Wadham	83.5
4 (2) St John's	83.3
5 (19) Balliol	82.6
6 (3) University	82.1
7 (13) Queen's	82.0
8 (12) St Ed Hall	81.2
9 (6) Keble	80.7
10 (27) Worcester	80.6
11 (11) Magdalen	80.2
12 (20) Christ Ch	80.2
13 (14) LM Hall	79.3
14 (9) New College	79.3
15 (24) Mansfield	79.2
16 (10) Oriel	79.1
17 (16) Lincoln	79.1
18 (15) Exeter	78.9
19 (18) Brasenose	78.9
20 (29) St Peter's	78.1
21 (23) Pembroke	78.1
22 (21) St Anne's	77.8
23 (17) Hertford	77.2
24 (7) Corpus C	77.1
25 (8) Trinity	76.9
26 (24) St Hilda's	76.9
27 (22) St Hugh's	76.4
28 (26) St Cat's	75.2
29 (25) Somerville	73.3
30 (30) Harris Man	70.5

1 (1) Trinity	66.35
2 (3) Queens'	64.52
3 (2) Christ's	64.50
4 (8) Galus	64.12
5 (7) Emmanuel	63.73
6 (11) Clare	63.22
7 (6) Trinity Hall	62.64
8 (10) St John's	62.54
9 (5) Pembroke	62.49
10 (14) King's	61.61
11 (12) Downing	61.22
12 (13) Fitzwilliam	60.83
13 (15) Churchill	60.26
14 (9) St Cath's	59.73
15 (16) Selwyn	59.64
16 (20) Jesus	59.61
17 (4) S Sussex	58.60
18 (23) Corpus C	58.22
19 (21) Robinson	58.01
20 (18) Newnham	57.93
21 (22) Girton	57.35
22 (17) Magdalen	57.17
23 (19) Peterhouse	57.14
24 (24) New Hall	55.6

bridge's two women's colleges — languishes at the bottom of its list for the second year running, while Newnham — the other — comes in at twentieth place.

St Anne's, Oxford's one remaining women's college, is in twenty-second place. Somerville went co-educational in 1994 in a move interpreted by many as an attempt to improve its academic results. However, it continues to perform badly at twenty-ninth.

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CHANGING TIMES

Guidelines are available to students looking for off-campus accommodation, says **Lucien Watkins**

When finding digs becomes a nightmare

When a student is leaving home for the first time, accommodation standards are as big a worry as the ability to cope with the academic work.

Today's students are more fortunate than their predecessors as more universities can now offer the security and comfort of in-hall accommodation. But those who do not have this option, such as my son Gavin, will depend on private accommodation.

After a day of accommodation-hunting last September, Gavin found a room in an old property occupied by several students. When he moved in he realised immediately that he had made a mistake. With his ground-floor room next to the kitchen, he had difficulty

sleeping and was constantly being disturbed. Bins and rotting food littered the kitchen. Peeling wallpaper glistened with damp and security was poor: one night his treasured mountain bike was stolen. So where did Gavin go wrong? Ruth Harper, Salford University's Student Union accommodation officer, says: "We try to produce checklists for room-seekers."

When it comes to advertising on campus, many universities allow only those properties that have been inspected and for which up-to-date gas and electrical appliance certificates can be produced. Environmental health officers suggest that there should be no more than six people sharing a single bathroom, toilet and



Senay Bozbas, a postgraduate media student at Cardiff, moves into the flat she will share

kitchen, and emphasise the importance of checking that there is an adequate means of escape in case of fire.

Accommodation offices offer guidelines for those who have found rooms:

- Always have a copy of the inventory; if the landlord does not provide one, do it yourself. Detail problems to the landlord or agency in writing. The landlord has an obligation to carry out repairs.

Try to get agreements checked out before signing and ask current tenants whether they are happy.

• When things do go wrong, go to the student union. If it is a legal matter, the union may

fund a meeting with a solicitor.

Many students are unsure about the best time to start hunting for a room. Susan Goddard, accommodation officer at Reading University, admits that students often panic and are looking now in the spring rather than later in the year. "But," she says, "no student is left to sleep rough if they contact us."

Other accommodation offices say that few, if any, students are left without a permanent roof over their head at the start of term. But in the event of someone not finding accommodation, Reading and other universities have strategies in place. Dr Goddard organises a house-hunting day in September during which the student union, the borough council housing advice service, environmental health and third-year students offer invaluable assistance.

Our son's episode ended on a positive note. Although he lost his deposit, he found alternative accommodation quickly with a landlord on the premises. The landlord's wife even baked my son cakes, making him feel right at home.

It pays to be closer to home

performance. Research by the London University accommodation service shows a link between housing and academic success.

On average, students are paying about 60 per cent of their weekly income on rent, forcing more and more of them to think twice before moving away from home to study. At Coventry University, the proportion of students from the immediate region has grown from 42 per cent to 54 per cent in seven years.

Many students like to have their

own accommodation in the second and third years. Few universities can guarantee residential places beyond the first year.

The NUS claims that, as more colleges contract out their halls of residence to management companies, rents are starting to rise at twice the rate of inflation. The average institutionally provided accommodation costs £48 a week.

Rents are not the only costs for students. In the toughest housing markets, landlords demand retain-

ers for the summer months and higher deposits. The average deposit in London is more than £250.

To cover their living costs, 40 per cent of full-time students have to work at part-time jobs. This works to the advantage of some institutions. Hull University — where private-sector rents are £26 to £30 a week and a surplus of accommodation means that rents are actually falling — is becoming more popular. Jim Dumsday, the university spokesman, says: "With debt and

overdrafts becoming more and more of an issue, the cost of accommodation is moving up in the students' priority tables."

	Av. rents	Av. deposits
£	£	£
Private landlord		
Scotland	44	133
Wales	38	76
North West	35	180
North East	34	93
East Anglia	52	216
East Midlands	34	141
West Midlands	33	147
South West	46	183
South East	48	225
London	87	251

Source: NUS Accommodation Costs Survey

HUGH THOMPSON

On the move: even the London Marathon was not immune from that ubiquitous modern accessory, the mobile phone

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7013-1-S S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S.
7014-1-T T. T. T. T. T. T. T. T.
7015-1-U U. U. U. U. U. U. U. U.
7016-1-V V. V. V. V. V. V. V. V.
7017-1-W W. W. W. W. W. W. W.
7018-1-X X. X. X. X. X. X. X. X.
7019-1-Y Y. Y. Y. Y. Y. Y. Y. Y.
7020-1-Z Z. Z. Z. Z. Z. Z. Z. Z.



Dawson 4:37:11; L Norris 4:37:12;
4:37:13; L Bred 4:37:13; L Ahan-
4:37:13; D Tearle 4:37:14; A Han-
4:37:14; L Bell 4:37:14; L White
4:37:14; D Luckman 4:37:14;
D Wilson 4:37:14; L Shure 4:37:
4:37:15; L Mason 4:37:15; D Hil-
4:37:15; D Brown 4:37:16; L
4:37:16; C Hennis 4:37:16; A Peirce
4:37:16; L Pugh 4:37:16; L Hon-
4:37:16; M Sudd 4:37:18; S Nuxon
4:37:19; L Gove 4:37:19; L Couvres
4:37:19; A Cones 4:37:19; C Thomas
4:37:19; R Farnsworth 4:37:19;
S Nixon 4:37:20; L Farnsworth
4:37:21; F Campbell 4:37:21; R
4:37:21; L Lewis 4:37:21; L
4:37:22; A Kirk 4:37:23; J Russell
4:37:23; D Onofie 4:37:23; I Cam-
4:37:23; L

1970- W Mirulla 4:37:24; R
4:37:24; L Heston 4:37:24; D Mur-
4:37:24; C Mills 4:37:24; P Morgan
4:37:24; L King 4:37:24; L
4:37:25; M Maze 4:37:25; C Nolan
4:37:25; L Salisbury 4:37:25;
Daizel 4:37:27; A Cardon 4:37:27;

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N Seymour 4:39:00; P Schuffl
4:39:00; F Gibson 4:39:00; G Mon-
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M Parvin 4:39:01; R Bailey
4:39:01; L Smith 4:39:01; L
land 4:39:04; L Bloom 4:39:04; J
Holland 4:39:04; L Freeman 4:39:
4:39:04; C Quinn 4:39:04; A
Wright 4:39:04; M Hemslay
4:39:04; L O'Connell 4:39:04;
nium 4:39:07; R Gill 4:39:07; J
4:39:07; L Smith 4:39:07; L
Riggs 4:39:09; S Dunney 4:39:09;
R Barnett 4:39:10; R Soden 4:39:10;
4:39:10; L Smith 4:39:10; L
4:39:11; A Shaw 4:39:11; L Conn
4:39:11; L Lewis 4:39:11; L
4:39:11; A J Ohnson 4:39:12; S
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4:39:13;

2010- E Gosny 4:39:13; C
4:39:13; L Hopkins 4:39:13;
N Beaumont 4:39:14; J Har-
4:39:14; T Moore 4:39:15; D
4:39:15; L Smith 4:39:15;
4:39:17; S Hanley 4:39:17;

CRICKET

Miandad quits as coach after dispute

By RICHARD HOBSON AND PAT GIBSON

EVEN in the volatile world of Pakistan cricket, the resignation of Javed Miandad as coach yesterday, little more than three weeks before the start of the World Cup, comes as something of a shock. Less surprising is the fact that his decision stems from a dispute inside a notoriously fractious dressing-room.

Although Miandad, the only man to play in all six previous World Cups, originally cited family commitments as the reason for standing down, he later acknowledged that differences with senior players during the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah earlier this month had influenced his judgment.

According to reports from Karachi, Miandad, appointed just eight months ago, upset members of the squad by declining to share a gift of 50,000 dirhams (around £9,000) donated by a Pakistani businessman after victory against India in the final.

"The allegations are baseless," Miandad said, "but the reports published indicate that the players do not want me. If that is the case, then I do not want them either."

He was known to have been unhappy at the decision to pick different squads for the event in Sharjah and the World Cup. Asked about the 15 chosen for the World Cup recently, he said: "The chief selector never contacted me, therefore I want to reserve my comments."

Khalid Mahmood, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, declined to comment on a split between the coach and players.

However, he had already spoken to Richard Pybus with a view to the Border coach assisting Miandad throughout the tournament and possibly taking over when Miandad's contract expired at the end of it. Pybus is believed to have

told Mahmood that he is available immediately, despite opposition from Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

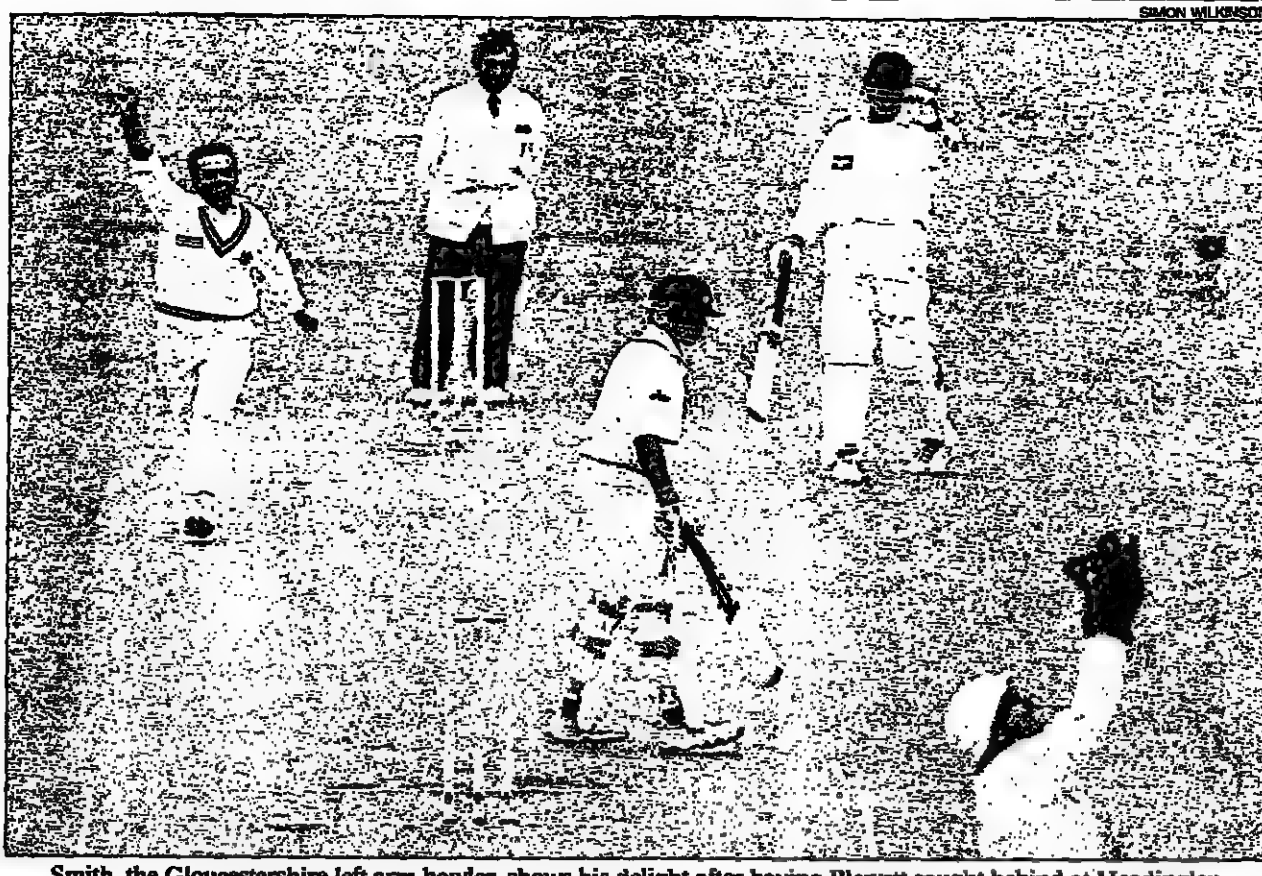
Pakistan are due to arrive in England at the weekend and begin preparations at Derby next Tuesday. Their first game in the World Cup is against the West Indies on May 16.

The sad prospect of the tournament losing one of its greatest attractions was raised yesterday when Brian Lara, who put the smile back on the face of West Indies cricket with two of the most momentous innings in Test history, pulled out of his side's fifth one-day international against Australia in Guyana.

Not the least remarkable aspect of Lara's monumental 213 in Jamaica and 153 not out in Barbados, not to mention his blazing 100 in Antigua, was that he was playing with an injury to his right wrist, received on the tour of South Africa.

He admitted during the Test series that the injury was always on his mind because he could feel the pain when the ball jarred the bat but, for the most part, he fielded at slip and timed the ball so sweetly that it did not inconvenience him too much. It has been different in the frenzy of the one-day internationals, and, in the two games in Trinidad at the weekend, Lara was seen to be favouring his wrist in the field and dropped himself to No 5 in the order.

A crisis at the Board of Control for Cricket has disrupted the preparations of Sri Lanka, the champions. Board officials say that a court order suspending the newly elected committee means that the departure to England may have to be delayed. Elections to the board last month were marred by allegations of malpractice, intimidation and assaults.



Smith, the Gloucestershire left-arm bowler, shows his delight after having Blissett caught behind at Headingley

Hayden makes promising start

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

HOVE (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Northamptonshire have scored 184 for two wickets against Sussex.

BY HIS own admission, Matthew Hayden may not have made the most of his opportunities for Australia, having played in only seven Test matches in five years since making his first appearance against South Africa.

But although he may not have fitted the bill for Australia — at 77 he is still young enough to put that right — Hayden's arrival on a two-year contract to a club badly in need of a lead, both from a captain and an opening batsman, could not have come at a more appropriate moment for Northamptonshire.

There is little to suggest that Hayden will do anything but fill his boots this season, just as he has done over the years for Queensland, and as he did for Hampshire two years ago. In the 54.2 overs possible at Hove yesterday, he moved to within two runs of a century against Sussex, an innings notable for its power and apparent effortlessness.

Sussex were left to rue three

missed catches, including a sharp chance offered by Hayden on 39, when Rajesh Rao failed to hold a thick edge high to his left at gully off Mark Robinson.

Rob Bailey and Russell Warren were the other two beneficiaries of fielding lapses. Bailey failed to capitalise on his when he played all round Alex Edwards' first ball and was left before, but Warren followed his captain's lead in reaching 39 in a partnership of 127 at the close.

Having moved to 98 with his fifteenth four off Robinson, Hayden gamely accepted the umpires' offer for bad light. Personal ambition aside, he knows that his task has just begun.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First innings
R J Bailey lbw b Edwards 28
M Hayden not out 98
M B Love lbw b Martin-Jenkins 39
R J Bailey not out 100
Extras (lb 6, w 4, nb 2) 12
Total (2 wickets) 184
D J G Scales, A L Pennington, G P Swann, 10
Ricky, J P Taylor, G Fokler and D E Maltby to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-67
DOMINGUS (12-55-0-0) Hayden-Jenkins 12-55-1, Edwards 9-27-1, Robinson 12-54-0, Adams 8-21-0
SUSSEX: R R Mervin, M T E Peres, C J Adams, M J D Vernon, P A Colby, R K Rao, R S C Martin-Jenkins, A D Edwards, T S Humphries, R J Bailey, A A Robinson, V A Holder and T E Jesty

Harden repairs damage on debut

By PAUL FITZPATRICK

HEADINGLEY (first day of four): Gloucestershire won toss; Yorkshire have scored 196 for seven wickets against Gloucestershire.

THE burning question for Gloucestershire this season is how well they will fare without Courtney Walsh, whose 106 wickets represented a crucial contribution to a good year in 1998 when the county finished fourth in the championship. Ian Harvey, an Australian all-rounder, will need no telling that he has an all but impossible task trying to fill the void.

Gloucestershire got by well enough without Walsh yesterday, on a pitch of no great pace but which was unpredictable in bounce and offered persistent movement. Had Walsh been present, however, Yorkshire might have struggled to get through past 100.

That they prospered to the extent they did was due in no small part to the experienced Richard Harden, who held the middle of the innings together after Mike Smith had removed both openers, Michael Vaughan and Greg Blewett, the Australian import, in an impressive new-ball spell.

Harden, 33, was a surprise recruit by a county renowned for home-grown talent. But the former Somerset player averages above 50 against Yorkshire in championship and one-day cricket, statistics which clearly convinced York-

shire that he could do a worthwhile job for them.

Harden was strokeless at times during his stay of 158 minutes but punctuated a valuable innings of 43 with five handsome boundaries. It was a surprise, when, soon after tea, he cut Harvey to Kim Barnett, at gully.

The other notable contribution to the early part of the innings came from Matthew Wood, a youngster keen to build on a promising debut season. Wood, well-organised and acquisitive, rose above the constraints of the pitch before following a wishful delivery from Tim Hancock.

Yorkshire's most fruitful stand, however, came as the light began to fade, a half-century partnership between Gavin Hamilton and Richard Blakely getting them close to 200, a more than usual score on this pitch.

YORKSHIRE: First innings
G B Bissett b Russell b Smith 5
M P Vaughan b Smith 17
M Evans b Barnett b Harvey 38
R J Harden b Barnett b Harvey 43
Gavin Hamilton not out 46
R J Blakely lbw b Smith 21
G M Hamilton not out 46
Extras (lb 7, w 2, nb 0) 9
Total (7 wickets) 196
R J Sebastian and M J Hoggard to bat.
G B Bissett, M J Hoggard, 1-13, 2-14, 3-48, 4-88, 5-115, 6-127, 7-193
BOWLING: Smith 18-6-48-3, Lowe 18-33-0, Algham 18-33-0, Harvey 18-33-0, Barnett 18-33-0, Russell 18-33-0, G M Hamilton 18-33-0, G B Bissett 18-33-0, M P Vaughan 18-33-0, M Evans 18-33-0, R J Harden 18-33-0, Gavin Hamilton 18-33-0, Richard Blakely 18-33-0, M J Hoggard 18-33-0, R J Sebastian 18-33-0, D J Constant and D Leachman to bat.

Yankey looks a sure bet at Highbury

ONE FA Cup will be leaving the Highbury trophy cabinet for a northern home next month and the FA Cup Premier League silverware could follow a few weeks later. Just as well, then, that Arsenal Ladies, the club's other double-winners last season, are keeping their chances of a domestic treble alive.

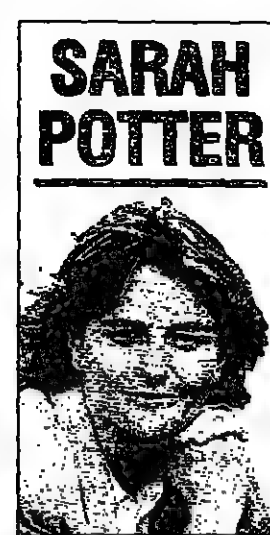
Football's glamour girls have already retained the League Cup and want a repeat performance against Southampton Saints in the FA Cup final on May 3. Like their male counterparts, though, the women must hope for the mistakes of others if they are to win the Premiership title. Croydon are three points clear with two games left, so Arsenal must beat Ilkeston on Sunday to keep the treble bid rolling.

Central to their success is Rachel Yankey, 19, the England winger, who has the same predatory pace and twinkle-toed skills of a player she has reason to dislike. Unlike most of her teammates at Highbury, Yankey is a fervent Arsenal supporter and was at Villa Park to see that Ryan Giggs goal in the FA Cup semi-final replay against Manchester United. "I still can't believe we lost," she said. "I couldn't admire his goal when it happened — I was too gutted — but looking at it since it was fantastic."

Arsenal Ladies love to beat their northern rivals, Doncaster Belles. Just as much as the men savoured a win over United. No surprise, then, that Yankey claims her two goals against Doncaster in the FA Cup semi-finals last month were her highlight of the season. "You could call them easy goals," she said, "but when there's a final at stake, even a tap-in makes you nervous."

Vic Akers, the first-team's kit man, started Arsenal Ladies 12 years ago and is still their manager. According to Yankey, he is cajoling her to claim more "easy" goals. "He reckons I'd score loads more if I followed up our shots," she said.

Nonetheless, Yankey shares a prolific striking partnership with Marianne Spacey, a former England



centre forward. "Max is the leading scorer in the league and I'm just behind her," Yankey said.

Arsenal have the sponsorship and support that other clubs in the top flight can only envy. The men provide training facilities and their luxury coach for away games, while Nike supply kit. "Some say we're pampered," Yankey said, "but it's nice to be recognised for doing something well."

Only the eagle-eyed, though, would have spotted her in the BBC series, *Playing The Field*. Yankey's mother, Jean, who watches her daughter home and away, can tell you that the character, "Shazza", was actually Rachel whenever a footballer had to be kicked. "I had to play football for about 20 minutes, but the rest was a bit boring," she said.

Which is not how she described the opportunity to celebrate the men's and women's doubles last season. "The roads were heaving with red and white, so it was really spine-tingling," she said.

The "obstructed view" seats at Highbury, which the club gives to the women players, were not good enough for Yankey. Scrapping together £220 to pay for a season ticket cannot have been easy, for Arsenal's female equivalent of Marc Overmars is unemployed. No matter, it seems, for this is a footballer who belongs at Highbury.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the quarter-final of the 1998 Gold Cup David Mossop's team narrowly beat Richard Winter's team. Paul Hackett for the winners had a difficult defence on this hand from the match.

Dealer West	Love all	IMPs
♠ 94 ♥ 765 ♦ AQJ55 ♣ 764	♠ 76 ♥ KJ8 ♦ 1088 ♣ 9832	
♠ Q832 ♥ Q104 ♦ K73 ♣ KJ5	♠ AKJ105 ♥ A83 ♦ 42 ♣ AQ10	
W Pass N Pass E 1H S Double	W Pass N 3D E Pass S All Pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: four of hearts.

West (Paul Hackett) bid Two No-Trumps over South's double of Tony Forrester's One Heart opening to show a good raise to Three Hearts (he and Forrester play five-card majors). The subsequent auction demonstrated that someone did not have his bid. South having adopted a very strong sequence, so Hackett wisely refrained from doubling Four Spades. Declarer won the first heart, crossed to dummy with a diamond to the jack, and finessed the jack of spades. Hackett took the queen, and continued hearts, and was on play after winning the third round. At this point he returned a club, and now declarer had the rest of the tricks.

The winning defence was for West to return a diamond instead of the club. That cuts off dummy's fourth diamond

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Veteran's performance
Viktor Korchnoi, 68, twice challenger for the world championship, turned in an amazing performance in the Dos Hermanas tournament. He lost only two games and outdistanced Viswanathan Anand, the second highest ranked player in the world.

I have already published Korchnoi's win from the tournament, as well as his loss to Michael Adams. Today's game completes the selection of Korchnoi's decisive games.

**White: Boris Gelfand
Black: Viktor Korchnoi
Dos Hermanas 1999**

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1. d4 d5
2. c4 dxc4
3. Nf3 e6
4. e3 Nf6
5. Bc4 c5
6. O-O Nc6
7. Qc2 dxc4
8. Rd1 Be7
9. exd4 O-O
10. a3 Nd5
11. Nc3 Re8
12. Ra2 Bc3
13. Ne5 dxc5
14. Qc5 Bc6
15. Bxc6 Nxc6
16. Ne5 Bxc5
17. dxc5 Qc7
18. Bf4 Be6
19. Bf3 a6
20. Qc5 Re8
21. Racl Qe7
22. Bc3 Bc5
23. Qe7 Re7
24. Ra3 Ra8
25. Bg4 Ra8
26. Rd6 Ra8
27. Rd4 Na8
28. Bc3 Ra8
29. Bc5 Na8
30. Bf3 Re7
31. Bf4 Re7
32. Rf8 Re7

Diagram of final position

Keene online
You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Black to play. This position is from the game Heimrath — Gold, Bad Zwischen 1999. White has become overly carried away with his own plans and has made a fatal oversight. How did Black continue?

Solution on page 54

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard

FLEECH
a. Flatery
b. Suffolk woollen cloth
c. A whinger

GETON
a. A small flag
b. A sergeant's exhortation
c. A climber's aid

GODOWN
a. An evensong canticle
b. A night-dress
c. A warehouse

GROLL
a. A Viennese cream puff
b. A goblin
c. An idiot

Answers on page 54

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT
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NOT

Racing grieves after the deaths of Tim Forster and Paul Kelleway

Men of character who left their mark

BY ALAN LEE AND CHRIS McGRATH

RACING yesterday mourned two of the richest characters in its modern past. Tim Forster and Paul Kelleway, each losing a brave battle with illness within hours of the other. The sorrow that united this diverse sport could hardly embrace the memory of two more different trainers.

Captain Forster, an august, bleakly humorous man, became an icon for steeplechasing rural constituency with three Grand National winners and a vivid contempt for the poison of urban values. He was 65. Kelleway, seven years his junior, offered an idiosyncratic and dauntless contrast in Newmarket, delighting in routine pitching his Davids against the Goliaths of Flat racing. Both men had been forced into retirement by deteriorating health, though Forster retained a permit to train a few point-to-pointers and saddled the last of over a thousand winners under Rules on New Year's Day.

If Forster had been free to decide a day to go, it would surely have been when he was racing at Towcester, in driving rain and bottomless mud, just like yesterday. The course observed a minute's silence for one of its most enduring patrons, a man about whom everyone has a story and nobody a sour word.

The memories were of a private, educated man of rigidly conservative tastes, steely dry humour and a hatred of all things modern. Intensely superstitious, incurably pessimistic, old-fashioned to the point of eccentricity, Forster chain-smoked to calm his nerves and detested the hype and expectations that came with a top-class horse.

Forster had been due to run his winning point-to-pointer, Bagalino,

at Towcester, recalled by all as his favourite track. Rodney Farran, one of several jockeys present whose careers began under 'The Captain', said: "He loved it here and he would have considered this proper jumping weather."

Hugo Bevan, clerk of the course at several of Forster's preferred haunts, remembered him as "incredibly shy and very old school". He added: "There was hardly a day at which I have officiated over the last 25 years when he didn't have a runner. I loved his pessimism — nothing was ever good news."

It was Brendan Powell, the senior man in a sombre Towcester weighing-room, who possessed the richest fund of Forsterisms, having first ridden for him in 1981 and retained links ever since.

"I could sit and tell stories about the Captain all day," Powell said. "He kept a daily diary of his training career, and I reckon everyone in the sport would love to read it from cover to cover."

"I once rode a novice chaser called

Trimage for him, on this course, and in the parade ring he said: 'This horse is just like you — he's Irish and he's thick in the head but if you kick him enough times, he'll respond.' Then he just spun round and walked away."

"He nearly had a fit one day when my mobile phone rang up on his gallops, and he hated jockeys' agents. Last season, Paul Carberry had been booked and the Captain said to me in real horror: 'I hear this man wears red gloves. I can't have someone riding for me in red gloves.'"

"We had a really decent horse called Conawarra who had won five on the bounce and was 4-1 on to make it six at Sandown one day. I saw the Captain with the saddle and asked how he [Forster] was. 'How do you think I am?' he said. 'I'd rather be at Towcester with a 100-1 shot.' He never wanted the pressure, you see, he just loved things to sail along quietly."

Kelleway, a robust soul who loved to defy the odds, was ultimately

defeated by the pancreatic cancer that hastened his retirement 18 months ago. He was as resourceful with cheap horses as with his wit, sustaining an uphill battle against more fashionable rivals with unwavering self-belief. He was fond of comparing himself to General Custer, surrounded by the Red Indians of Newmarket — Messrs Cecil, Sioute and Gorden.

His own last stand was rewarded by the success of Dovedon Star, his final runner, at Newmarket in October 1997. But earlier battle honours included seven group winners, most notably Swiss Maid, Madam Gay and Risk Me.

As a jump jockey, Kelleway had scaled the twin peaks of Cheltenham with What A Myth (1969 Cheltenham Gold Cup) and Bula (Champion Hurdle 1971 and 1972). Ray Cochrane, the Derby-winning jockey, said: "He was a tough professional and there were no second measures, but when you got him away from horses, in his social life, he was a bloody good bloke."

Par Eddery, his weighing-room colleague, added: "He came up with some really good horses over the years. He didn't have the backing and he didn't have the cream, but he had a good eye for a horse and he trained them well. He will be sadly missed."

On his retirement Kelleway sold Shalfleet stables to Jeremy Noseda and retreated to Spain with his wife, Gillian. He is assured of a tangible legacy on the turf, with three children — Gay, Anthony and Sarah — all training. But his memory will endure with the same independence that animated his life.



Forster, left, and Kelleway, who died after long illnesses yesterday



Ben Nevis becomes the second of Forster's three National winners

Daliapour makes case for Derby

IT WAS not the strict form of Daliapour's success in the Schroder Unit Trust Blue Rib and Trial at Ascot yesterday that prompted William Hill to cut him to 12-1 third favourite (from 14-1) for the Vodafone Derby (Chris McGrath writes). Yet the aplomb with which Daliapour executed this simple assignment on his reappearance offered legitimate grounds for interest in his return here in June.

This low-key start was characteristic of the steely with which Luca Cumani nurses a colt towards a possible crack at the Derby. Daliapour will improve for his exertions, albeit few were required to preserve the lead he established as the stalls opened.

More significant was the attitude he showed for the peculiar demands of Epsom. While the son of Sadler's Wells will be well served by the extra two furlongs of the classic, he also showed a sickness on the bridge that will make his easier for his jockey, Gerald Mosca.

Cumani, who first won the race with Kahyasi and added High-Rise last year, was restrained about his prospects of following up. "He's probably asked to do more on the gallops," Cumani said, "but at least he showed that he acts well round here." Kahyasi and High-Rise completed their Derby preparations in the Lingfield Trial, and Daliapour will follow suit.

MEETING POINTS
THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

Underfoot conditions
Standard Hard Firm

PERTH
Jumps, 7-race card
1st race: 2.20
Winning favourite: 37.8%

Long-distance travellers
You're Agoodun (2.50), Out Banking (4.50), 484 miles

BEVERLEY
Flat, 6-race card
1st race: 2.10
Winning favourite: 37.3%

Long-distance travellers
Kington Venture (3.10), 256 miles

Fontwell
Jumps, 6-race card
1st race: 1.30
Winning favourite: 42.9%

Long-distance travellers
Formidable Partner (3.30), Cypress Avenue (4.00), 167 miles

EARLY BIRD
Best value this morning
Deploy Venture (Beverley 3.10)

See racecards for detailed going

Epsom

Going soft, good to soft in places

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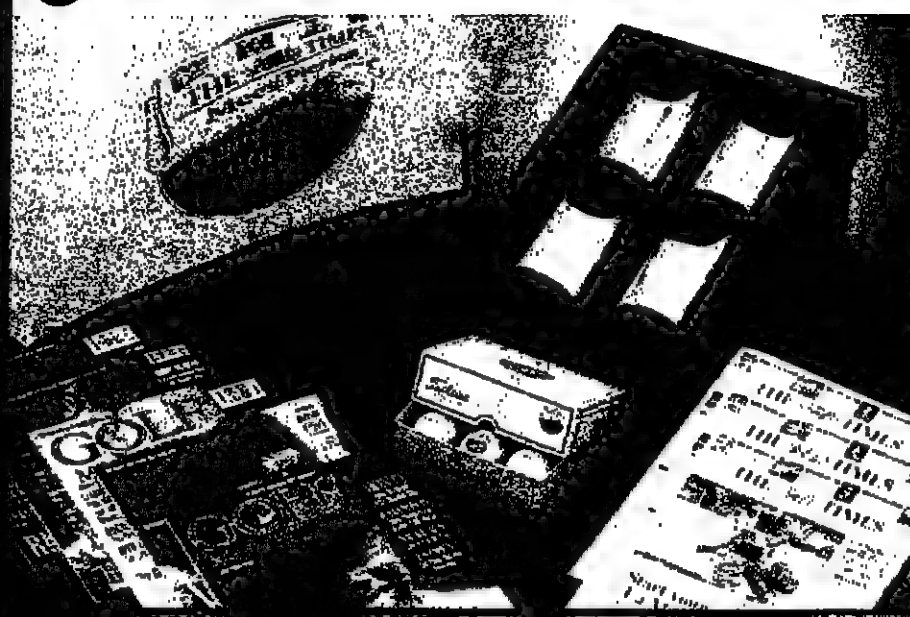
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FOOTBALL

At 42, Scott aims to break sub-four minute mile barrier

Oldest kid on track is running towards finish line

Age, illness and injury are the cruellest opponents in sport. Anyone brave enough to try to outrun them wins admiration even if he looks certain to lose.

And win or lose, they don't come any braver than Steve Scott. This week, the track world has been fascinated by pre-event publicity from the Drake Relays meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. According to reports, this Saturday, just a couple of weeks before his 43rd birthday, Scott will attempt to become the oldest athlete to break four minutes for the mile.

Scott, of all people, should know what he is taking on. He first broke that barrier as long ago as January 1977 in Los Angeles and since then he has run 136 sub-four minute miles — more than any other man in track history.

Throughout the 1980s he has haunted the commercial circuits of grand prize races in Europe and America. Living out of a suitcase and thrashing out top-class miles. His opponents included such legends as Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett and Steve Cram, as well as John Walker, the great New Zealander, his most frequent sparring partner and the first man to run under 3min 50sec.

Scott ran his last sub-four minute mile back where he had started, in Los Angeles, at 37, in 1993. By then he was already dreaming of cracking the barrier when he was past the age of 40.

That prize was snatched from him when Eamonn Coghlan, the Irishman, ran 3:58.15 in 1994 at the age of 41 on an indoor track in Boston. The sub-four by a veteran has still not been achieved outdoors, where the record is 4:02.53, held by Dave Moorcroft, who was 40 when he ran it.

Within weeks of Coghlan's record, Scott's phenomenal ability was overtaken by an opponent far more threaten-

ing than any who had ever pulled on spikes — he was struck by cancer.

Scott was diagnosed with testicular cancer in April 1994 and opted to undergo surgery in May. He rejected chemotherapy because he feared it might damage his lungs and he still hoped to keep running.

"After Eamonn Coghlan broke four minutes in March of 94, I more or less retired," Scott said. "I thought there was nothing really left. But when I came down with cancer the four-minute mile became my focal point. Eamonn might be the first to break it, but I could be the first to break four minutes who's also a cancer survivor."

Scott resumed training three months after his surgery, still dreaming of one more sub-four minute triumph. "In a lifetime of running I had learnt to face pain," he said in his biography, "I got ready to face the pain of cancer. I ran through the whole picture in my mind. Whatever my thoughts, running sub-four at 40 always popped up as well. I would not let go of my running goals. My life depended on that, too."

Twenty years ago exactly, Scott was the first to break the four-minute mark at the Drake Relays with 3:55.26. He had shown up the year before with the intention of setting the record, but woke up on the day of the race with a temperature of 103. He vowed he would return and crack the mark. He did it in style.

This time he is more cautious. "No promises," he said. "I cannot break four minutes whenever I want to now. I think I have a reasonable chance at this point. It would be kind of a storybook ending to come back 20 years later and achieve it there. It would be fun."

The sad truth, however, is that there is unlikely to be a fairytale ending to the Steve Scott story this weekend. His most recent race was at 5,000



Even when he was fighting cancer, Scott was dreaming of the day when he would be back on the track trying to add to his world record of 136 sub-four minute miles

metres at Carlsbad, California, where he ran 14min 30sec — not really an indication of four-minute speed.

Then a couple of days later, on March 31, Scott suffered a minor strain in his calf muscle and the injury stopped him training properly for nine days. It was April 10 before he could run freely again and he is still not back to anything like his peak form.

"At 23," he said, "you can recover your fitness in a week, but at 43 it takes two or three weeks and it's not there yet."

So he is likely to have a tough time when he lines up for the mile on Saturday, when his competition will include Paul McMullen, America's leading miler, who won the race last

year in 3:59.12. But Scott never gives up. If he falls this weekend he plans to find another race in late May. "I could never live without testing myself," he once said, "and after a quarter-century of taking the starting line, I'm not ready to hang up my spikes yet. I still feel like Scottie the Miller, a kid at heart."

This 42-year-old kid has already outkicked cancer and done enough training to give himself the speed and stamina to outrun time itself. So who knows, if he can shake off his calf injury, maybe there is just one more sub-four minute mile to be squeezed out of the ageing and battered body of Scottie the Amazing Miller.

'I could never live without being able to test myself'

JOHN BRYANT

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Whitaker aims to buck World Cup odds again

JOHN WHITAKER, winner of the showjumping World Cup in 1990 and 1991, is "quietly confident" about his chances for the event that begins today in the Scandinavium arena here. Whitaker, 43, the only rider to have qualified for every final since the competition began in 1979, and Michael, his younger brother, are the only Britons among the 42 riders from 20 nations who have qualified this year.

While not one of the favourites — that honour is shared by Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the European champion, and Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, the world champion and holder of the World Cup — John Whitaker comes to the final with two in-form horses, Virtual Village Grannusch, on which he was third in the Olympia World Cup qualifier in all three legs. "He feels good and he's a fairly level-headed horse," he said. "I just hope I get off to a good start."

Beerbaum and Pessoa were both in buoyant mood yesterday. Michael Whitaker has yet to improve on his third place in the 1994 final. He intends to ride Virtual Village Grannusch, on which he was third in the Olympia World Cup qualifier in all three legs. "He feels good and he's a fairly level-headed horse," he said. "I just hope I get off to a good start."

Whitaker will then switch to Heyman for the bigger second and third legs tomorrow evening and on Sunday afternoon. Although the ten-year-old gelding, on which he was runner-up to Trevor Coyle,

EQUESTRIANISM

From Jenny MacArthur in Gothenburg

The Irish rider, and Cruising in the Dortmund Grand Prix last week, had a back pole down at the penultimate over in the training competition yesterday. Whitaker was under-estimated. "I was just using it to train a little bit and Heyman was having a good look," he said. "He can get a bit erratic, but if he jumps as well as he did in Dortmund we should be all right."

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

FLEECH

(a) Flattery; a piece of flattery. Of obscure origin, but at any rate it is musty Teutonic.

GETON

(a) A small flag. Of obscure origin. The sense would suggest identity with the French *guidon*. "Every baronet shall have his banner displayed in ye field if he be chief captain, every knight his pennon, every squire or gentleman his geton or standard. A streamer shall be styt & so shall a standard as well as a geton."

GODOWN

(c) A warehouse or store for goods, in India and other parts of Eastern Asia. Malay, supposed to be from the Telugu and Tamil words meaning a place where goods lie.

GROLL

(c) A foolish or superficial person. A gossip or smatterer.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1... Qxd2! 2 Rxd2 Rel+ 3 Rdl Rexdl checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

Love story on an epic scale

Arena: Salman Rushdie and The Ground Beneath His Feet

BBC2, 11.20pm

Rushdie's new novel, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, is a three-sided love story on an epic, mythic scale, moving across three decades and three continents. It has as its setting the world of pop music — a bold decision for a writer not generally associated with that world. But, as he reveals in an interview with Francine Stock, it reflects his own life (he recalls first hearing and identifying with the earliest rock 'n' roll records and how being Indian was "cool" in Swinging Sixties London) and enables him to make the story (a reworking of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice) more directly involving to younger readers.

Aussie Birds: Pelican Island

Channel 5, 7.30pm

There is nothing complicated about this series, running Monday to Friday this week, which tells the story, tonight, of the Australian variety of the pelican. It is, however, an extraordinary tale, since these graceful fliers and voracious fish-eaters are virtual fossil birds, the species having survived almost unchanged for millennia. Tomorrow: Soaring Hunters. The Australian little eagle.

Making It

BBC2, 7.30pm (England and Wales only)

Vivien Maxwell, a mother of five and a farmer's wife living near Loch Lomond, surprised many when, as a student of interior design at the Glasgow School of Art, she won the Master's Medal as the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry. As a result, she was offered a short-term contract in London with Rodney Fitch, a company specialising in retail shop and restaurant interiors. Although both sides seem to have given their best shot, circumstances, the distance from home and the fact that she was not computer literate as a designer combined to make her experience less than happy and she abandoned her contract without notice.

A Tribute to Yehudi Menuhin

Radio 3, 7.30pm

What better indicator could there be of the esteem in which Menuhin was held during his long life in music? This tribute to him in words and music eats up almost the whole of tonight's Radio 3 schedules. If any facet of his contribution to 20th-century music-making and philanthropy has been left out, I can't detect it in the summary put out by the BBC. Among the recordings we will hear are the second movement of Menuhin's 1932 recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto, with the composer conducting, and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, K364, with the violinist partnering the viola virtuoso Rudolf Barshai. The climactic work is Menuhin playing the Beethoven Violin Concerto, with Furtwangler conducting the Philharmonia.

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6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 3.00pm Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce. The best in music. 6.00 Steve Lamacz: The Evening Session. New music and session tracks 10.00 The Global Update. Jennifer Cox presents travel reports 10.10 John Peel. Musical treats 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00am Dave Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00am Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Bob Harris Company. With Sara Evans 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Take It Easy: California Cool (5/6) 8.30 The News Headlines 10.00 Boogie Woogie with George Melly (1/2) 10.30 Lynn Parsons 10.40 Katrina Leskanen 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ian Payne 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Wimbledon, the Church of Football (3/4) 8.00 The Thursday Match. Real Mallorca v Chelsea, Cup Winners' Cup semi-final, second leg 10.00 Late Night Live, including The Financial World Tonight 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Justice With Jackie 1.00pm Anna Rustum 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 One to One With David Hamilton 8.00 Jackie Mason 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

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RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petros Trelawny with music and arts news, including a review of Michael Attenborough's production of *Onassis* at the RSC (under review). 8.05 The Commission. Lynne Walker examines the works commissioned by Menuhin; 8.55 Bartok (Sonata for Solo Violin, 1st mvt; Menuhin); 9.10 The Master Musicians; 9.40 Mozart (Sinfonia concertante in E flat major, K364; Menuhin, violin, Rudolf Barshai, viola, Bath Festival Orchestra); 10.15 Beethoven (Piano Trio in D, Op 70 No 1; Ghost; Menuhin, violin, Maurice Gendron, cello, Heptachord, Menuhin, piano); 11.00 The Legend; 11.15 Beethoven (Violin Concerto Op 61; Yehudi Menuhin, Philharmonia under Wilhelm Furtwangler)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today With Anna Hill 6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie 6.25 (LW) World at One: The World at One 6.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Guests join Melvyn Bragg to consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age 9.30 Blind Men on the Rampage New series. Peter White's perspective on life without sight, exploring the world through sound, touch, smell and the help of others (1/2) 9.45 (FM) Serial: *Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* Adaptation of Jerome K. Jerome's tales of an idle's approach to coping with everyday life 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Women's Hour: Jenni Murray talks to actress Eleanor Bron. Includes *Diary of a Provincial Lady* 11.00 Crossing Continents Nigerian villagers who have resorted to using traditional magic to light for a stake in local conflicts 11.30 My Uncle Freddie By Alex Ferguson. Comedy set on Tyneside, charting the relationship between a boy and his uncle. Granddad Fergie is found dead and Lady's future in Jarro is assured. With Shous Menendegast and Gareth Brown. Last in series (5/6) (1) 12.00 (FM) News 12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.04pm With Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie 12.05 World at One: The World at One With Nick Clarke 1.30 Open Country Richard Udding uncovers tales from the countryside of Essex 2.00 The Archers (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: I See the Moon See Choice 3.00 Call You and Yours: 020 010 0646 3.28 Appeal On behalf of the Bobby Moore Fund, which promotes research into bowel cancer (1)



Salman Rushdie discusses his latest novel in an Arena special (BBC2, 11.20pm)

Dispatches

Channel 4, 9.30pm

A highly topical and appropriate programme, in which a family of four in Walsall are challenged to do without their two cars for a week. If the Government's declared intention to woo us away from our reliance on private cars is to mean anything, this is exactly what should be happening. Odd, perhaps, that a "minority" television channel, often pilloried for its irresponsible approach to broadcasting, is the first to do anything concrete about it.

NYPD Blue

Channel 4, 10pm

Simone is dead, long live the new kid on the block. No sooner has Jimmy Smits left the 15th Precinct than blond, boyish Rick Schroder is checking in to become the new partner for Sipowicz (Dennis Franz). Schroder, as Danny Sorenson, looks like a teenager but quickly proves worthy of the respect of his new team-mates, and tonight's story of a drive-by shooting and subsequent bloody revenge among drug-dealers sets up several ways in which he will interact with the existing company. A promising debut.

Tony Patrick

RADIO CHOICE

I See the Moon

Radio 4, 2.15pm

In telling you about Alex Ferguson's down-to-earth ghost story, I must be very careful not to give the game away. So what can I write about? I see the Moon without being a spookster? Firstly, I think, I can tell you that the town-planner storyteller, played by Cliff Howells, is as haunted as a grown-up as he was as a child. Secondly, the silent little girl whom he finds sitting at the top of a staircase in a rambling old house is as near to being a ghost as the spectral night-walker in *Hamlet*. Thirdly, the town-planner is a thorn in the side of the crooked development company who plan to put up executive housing where country houses once stood. And that, I'm afraid, is as far as I dare go.

Peter Daville

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Prodigy. Bernard Keefe explores Menuhin's early years as a performer and recording artist; 8.20 Elgar (Violin Concerto, Op 61; Menuhin, LSO Under Elgar); 8.35 The Commission. Lynne Walker examines the works commissioned by Menuhin; 8.55 Bartok (Sonata for Solo Violin, 1st mvt; Menuhin); 9.10 The Master Musicians; 9.40 Mozart (Sinfonia concertante in E flat major, K364; Menuhin, violin, Rudolf Barshai, viola, Bath Festival Orchestra); 10.15 Beethoven (Piano Trio in D, Op 70 No 1; Ghost; Menuhin, violin, Maurice Gendron, cello, Heptachord, Menuhin, piano); 11.00 The Legend; 11.15 Beethoven (Violin Concerto Op 61; Yehudi Menuhin, Philharmonia under Wilhelm Furtwangler)

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